

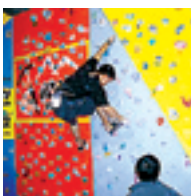
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Email forward gets net nationalists fuming

By Chen Shasha

A senior secretary at EMC China copied an email reply to her boss to all the company's staff. Within a few days the mail had been forwarded to thousands of office workers in other companies and continues to be forwarded more widely.

On the evening of April 7, when Loke Soon Choo, a senior manager of EMC China returned to his office, he found he had forgotten his key. He tried to contact his secretary, Rebecca, but failed. Loke, who is Singaporean, waited until midnight before sending an angry email saying, "Rebecca, I just told you not to assume or take things for granted on Tuesday and you locked me out of my office this evening when all my things are all still in the office because you assume I have my office key on my person. With immediate effect, you do not leave the office until you have checked with all the managers you support - this is for the lunch hour as well as at end of day, OK?" "Loke copied the email to four other members of staff at EMC.

Two days later, he received Rebecca's reply in Chinese, which he was unable to read very well, and found to his surprise that it had been copied to all EMC staff in Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou and Shanghai.

In her email Rebecca said, "First, I don't think I did anything wrong. I should lock the door to guarantee the safety of the office, because I can't take responsibility for anything going missing. Second, it's your fault for forgetting your key; don't blame others. Third, my working day is eight hours; after that it is my private time, which you don't have any right to control. Fourth, from my first day at EMC, I have focused on my job and always worked overtime to make everything perfect, without ever being criticized before. However, if I am asked to do something more than my job, I cannot. Fifth, although we are at different levels, please don't be so insolent as to say the things you do. Sixth, I didn't 'assume' anything as you said, as it was not necessary to make any such kind of 'assumption'."

On April 10, both Loke and Rebecca's mails were posted by someone from EMC to one of the largest online communities in China. This set off a fierce debate, some criticizing Rebecca's actions, but the majority in favor of what she did, and in admiration of her courage and willingness to defend herself.

One poster claimed it was a typical example of a foreign boss treating their Chinese staff unequally, "Would he feel as free to ask a foreign member of staff what he demanded of Rebecca?"

The two emails continued to be forwarded. Over five days, they were forwarded from EMC on to Microsoft, then to MIC, Hewlett Packard, Samsung, Honeywell, Thomson, Motorola, Nokia and GE, reaching thousands of office workers. Many admired Rebecca, and thought she had only done what they lacked the courage to do. Rebecca has since been fired by EMC for violations of company rules.

"It was unprofessional to reply in Chinese to her foreign boss, and also to copy the reply to unrelated people in the office," said Robin, who works at EMC's Singapore branch. Tomaz Mok, a general manager with McCann China holds a different opinion. Although McCann's company rules are similar to those of EMC, "It all depends. We could not make a judgment without listening to the whole story, people working at lower levels may have things to say which have been neglected."

Robert, an IT worker, thought most of the replies to Rebecca made no sense, but were merely expressing people's dissatisfaction with their own boss. "However, we should consider the matter as it stands. A good secretary should ask for permission from all her bosses when she leaves office. That is the difference between a secretary and other positions in the office." Marcia, who works at GE, thought Rebecca might have misunderstood the meaning of 'assume' in Loke's mail, due to cultural differences between the two countries.

Rebecca has reportedly found it hard to get a new job after the unexpected publicity. However, Annie, who works in the human resource department at Dell said she would not refuse to interview Rebecca if she came to apply. "Yes, it's wrong for her to forward her email to so many other members of staff, but there's nothing strange for an employee to argue with her boss over human right. Without knowing the whole reason why she acted like that, we have no right to refuse anyone with talent."

Some claim that the email issue may harm Loke more than Rebecca. Others blame staff at EMC who copied the mails to contacts outside the company.



Elite forces at ready for Games security

Special police squads show off their skills at a demonstration of security preparations for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, at a police academy north of Beijing yesterday. Authorities involved in the games are keen to show they have properly trained staff ready to handle an unprecedented number of foreign visitors as well as being able to deal with any terrorist threats.

CFP Photo

Two big music festivals to rock your holiday

By Manman/Xiaoyuan

Beijing goes pop during the May Day holiday, with two big music events, the '2006 Chaoyang Pop Music Festival' and the '2006 Midi Music Festival' ready to present variety and excitement.

The Chaoyang Pop Music Festival, to be staged in Chaoyang Park next Monday, is the largest of its kind in Asia. The festival will run for the seven full days of the May Day Holiday, from 9 am to 9:30 pm.

The event features a lineup of A-list Chinese singers, as well as international bands and dance groups from the United States, Belgium, Russia, Italy, South Africa and beyond.

It is the third year of this event; attendances



Last year's Midi Festival drew big crowds.

Photo by Sina.com

at previous festivals have reached 300,000. Tickets this year are priced at 30 yuan per person.

The other event, the Midi Music Festival will start on May 1 and run for four days in Beijing's Haidian Park. The bands and musicians coming this year include Again, Autumn Red, BB.BOMB, Xia Jia, Yaksa and Youn Sun Nah. As well as the live music, Club Tango will be bringing spicy and hot dancing.

The Midi Festival has already helped to assist the now flourishing youth culture of China.

The Festival has become the most popular outdoor entertainment event and an annual party for music lovers.

Affordable Chinese art for all

By Tom Mackenzie

Beijing's first ever affordable art fair kicked off last night showcasing 300 works by over 60 artists from across the country.

Paintings, sculptures, posters and cartoons by some of China's best-known contemporary artists will be displayed at the China Art Season Gallery in Dashanzi until Sunday evening.

Works from the likes of Ji Xiaofeng, Sheng Qi and Song Yang will sit alongside pieces by lesser-

known but critically acclaimed artists from every corner of China.

And with a top price tag of 8,000 yuan and some pieces going for just a few hundred yuan, organizers *Time Out* magazine and culture agency Red T, say there will be something for everybody.

Red T CEO Tamsin Roberts added, "The art scene in China, and particularly Beijing, is thriving and this fair will give the public, and not just international collectors, a chance to get their hands on it."

Paddy fields to par fours: how good is golf for Beijing?

By Gareth Geroge

It might have been SARS that made golf in Beijing. For more than two months in 2003, Beijingers were warned away from crowds and the confines of indoor areas. Golf was an appealing alternative. For Sarah Xu of Capital Asia International Management, golf is an opportunity to mix business with pleasure. "That's certainly why I like it, it feels healthy to be with nature."

It turns a healthy profit too. Xu's company has just staged the PGA Show Asia: 5th China (Beijing) International Golf Trade Fair 2006, held at the China National Agricultural Exhibition Center on April 14.

In 1994 Beijing had three 18 hole golf courses. Ten years later, there were nearly 40. Originally, some 80 percent of Beijing's golfers were foreign visitors. Now they're 80 percent Chinese. "Chinese businessmen find it a new, healthy way to conduct business," Xu says, "And there are more companies appearing every year, raising awareness of the sport and the lifestyle."

Golf in China has certainly come a long way. Among her 200 plus golf courses, she even boasts the Mission Hills Golf Club - ranked by the Guinness Book of Records as the world's largest.

But many golfers appear unaware of the potential impact on the environment, despite the issue being raised as early as 1990 in an Economist article, appropriately titled 'Golf and Its Impact in the Environment'.

A study conducted by Chee Yoke Ling and Mohammad Ferhan Ferrari of Malaysia's Asia-Pacific People's Environment Network (APPEN) found that golf course development requires clearing vegetation, cutting forests and creating artificial landscapes, which lead to land erosion and block the soil's ability to retain water. This is particularly



The number of golf courses in the city has increased exponentially over the past decade.

CFP Photo

damaging in Beijing, which according to landscape architect Yu Kongjian, receives some 30 percent less rainfall than the global average.

Moreover, golf courses need 3,000 cubic meters of water per day, enough to supply the requirements of 15,000 people. The courses also need large quantities of pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides, which groups such as the Global Anti-Golf Movement say have caused health problems among golfers, workers and nearby residents.

And the damage is not easily rectified. Anita Pleumarom, an Anti-Golf activist in Bangkok, claims that fertile farmland used for the development of golf courses is damaged beyond repair once the ecosystem is changed.

So are there any measures in place to ensure Beijing's environment is not irredeemably harmed? "That," says Sarah Xu, "is a matter for the government to decide." Meanwhile, Golf Incentive Resorts and Spa Asia 2006, who sponsored the recent trade fair, have declared a US\$27 million profit in Asia over the last year and are looking at a 25 percent year on year rise.

CHIEF EDITOR: JIAN RONG
NEWS EDITOR: HOU MINGXIN
ART DIRECTOR: DENG NING

Taxi price hike: everybody pays

By Chu Meng

The petrol price hike should be jointly shouldered by taxi drivers, passengers, government and companies. That was the general consensus of comments made at a public hearing this Wednesday. Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform, which organized the hearing, is set to raise taxi fares from 1.6 yuan (US\$0.2) to 2 yuan (US\$0.25) per kilometer.

The hearing brought together 25 representatives from business operators, drivers, consumers and experts. Ten city residents attended the hearing as observers.

A slim majority of the attendees agreed to the pricing plan, which aims to offset the impact

of up-to-50 percent hikes in fuel prices since 2000.

Surprisingly, all the taxi drivers representatives agreed to the plan, contradicting an earlier survey, which showed that up to 87 percent of them were against the pricing adjustment.

Ding Baosheng, director of the transportation bureau, said, "We are trying to find a reasonable solution so that government, taxi companies, drivers and passengers share the rising costs. To reduce the impact of higher costs, taxi companies and the government have been subsidizing taxi drivers since 2000."

Hu Yongxin, a manager at the Xianglong Taxi Company, said, "The fact was that the

subsidies, ranging from 500 yuan (US\$63) to 670 yuan (US\$84) per month, were pretty generous.

"So when the new fares come into force, the subsidies will have to be lowered, as drivers are expected to benefit from the rising fares. Otherwise, taxi companies will lose money."

Wang Qianhu, of the China Consumers' Association, was not impressed. "This means transferring rising costs directly to consumers. I have to criticize some of the taxi companies, because they want compensation while conveniently ignoring falling car prices. Those have considerably reduced their operating costs from a decade ago. For example, a Jetta now sells for about 80,000



The hearing

Xinhua Photo

yuan (US\$10,000), less than half the price 10 years ago."

Wang added, "I hope the pricing regulator takes all cost-related factors into account, so that the new pricing plan can be reasonable and acceptable to all sides."

Li Yong, a member of the municipal political consultative conference, said raising taxi fares is not the only solution; the government should also consider other energy-saving measures such as restricting the

number of taxis cruising for business, and encouraging radio call taxis instead.

Many taxi drivers are reportedly opposed to the new pricing plan, fearing the rising fares will push more customers into using unlicensed cabs, of which there are an estimated 72,000, against 66,000 licensed taxis in the city.

Many of them feel that taxi companies should shoulder more of the costs, rather than passing them on to passengers.

Scientific satellite launch a success



China launched a remote sensing satellite yesterday morning. This is the first of a series of launches planned this year.

The satellite blasted off on a top Long March 4-B carrier rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shanxi Province.

The 2.7-ton satellite will be mainly used for scientific experiments, surveys of land resources, appraisals of crops and disaster prevention and alleviation.



Central bank warns of risks in home loans

China's central bank, the People's Bank of China, says the real estate industry is absorbing too much of the country's capital, causing government concern.

Wu Xiaoling, deputy governor of the central bank, said, "Real estate financing is making up a bigger and bigger share of the country's financial sector. The health of real estate financing is of critical importance to the health of the financial sector. We must pay close attention to developments."

Housing prices are soaring, despite the government's year-long efforts to stabilize the sector. This has sparked concern about a housing bubble.

According to Wu, Chinese banks' lending to the real estate sector stood at 3.07 trillion yuan (US\$380 billion) at the end of 2005, some 14.8 percent of all renminbi lending by China's financial institutions and equivalent to 16.8 percent of the country's 2005 GDP.

Lending to individual house buyers by China's commercial banks totaled 1.84 trillion yuan (US\$230 billion) in 2005, 8.9 percent of the banks' total renminbi lending, and equivalent to 10 percent of GDP.

Wu maintained that China has established a suitable market-driven real estate system and a bank-loan-dominated housing finance system following two decades of reforms and experiments.

However, she said the country's housing finance system is still dogged by many unsolved problems, such as the lack of appropriate loans for lower-income house buyers and the over-concentration of risk in the banks.

"The central bank must speed up its research on housing finance and work for the healthy development of the sector," she said. (Xinhua)

Out-of-towners snap up city housing

By Chen Shasha

The newly issued China real estate blue book for 2006 says that house prices in Beijing will continue to rise this year, but at a rate lower than in 2005. The report also stated that 40 percent of residential housing in the city was bought by buyers from other provinces and abroad.

Local household registration holders spent most on medium and low quality housing. In contrast, foreigners and non-Beijingers bought at the top end of the market. The report found that the supply of property priced at 8,000 yuan per square meter and more far exceeded demand, and that construction of housing priced below 5,000 yuan per square meter dropped by 14 percent compared with 2004. The blue book disclosed that some 39 percent of Beijingers hoped to buy houses at 5,000 yuan or below per square meter.

Overall housing sales transactions were up to 154,000 in 2005. The average price of commercial housing last year was 7,392 yuan per square meter.

China mulls anti money laundering law

China is widening the net to monitor flows of illicit money in a bill prepared to combat rampant money laundering and upstream crimes, such as smuggling, drug trafficking, and bribery.

The draft law has been submitted to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, for first deliberation and is expected to be passed after three rounds of hearings.

"Money laundering has grown into a prominent problem in China, in the wake of a rise in serious crimes such as smuggling, drug dealing and

corruption," said Feng Shuping, deputy director of the Budgetary Work Commission of the NPC Standing Committee.

The China Anti-Money Laundering Monitoring and Analysis Center, an office under the central bank set up in 2004, said it had forwarded 683 suspicious money laundering reports to the police by the end of 2005, involving 137.8 billion yuan (US\$17.2 billion) and over one billion US dollars.

The draft legislation will widen the scope of monitoring, from the banking sector to insurance and securities firms,

law firms, accounting agents, and businesses such as real estate, jewelry sales and auctions, said Ms Feng.

The monitoring network will also keep an eye on corruption, financial frauds, drug trafficking, smuggling, organized crime and terrorism.

China's first anti money laundering regulations were issued by the central bank in March 2003.

"The current legal framework is not well-founded, has little effect and delays efforts to curb laundering," Feng said. (Xinhua)

Views differ in debate on sex identification

China's lawmakers have resumed a controversial debate on criminalizing sex identification of embryos for pregnant women.

A provision in the draft Sixth Amendment of the Criminal Code has been proposed for this purpose.

However, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) was sharply divided when the issue came up for the first of its three leg-

islative reviews last December.

Members heard in the second review Tuesday that the draft law provides penalties of up to three years in jail, probation and fines for those involved.

A Standing Committee official said that some members considered the provision necessary to curb the country's abnormal sex ratio and prevent the use of abortion as a means of sex selection.

Opponents maintained the

law was unreasonable and impossible to police, as evidence of the proposed crime would be hard to collect, and it was difficult to judge if an abortion had resulted from sex identification.

Statistics from the State Family Planning Commission show 117 boys born for every 100 girls in China, well above the international average of 104 to 107 boys per 100 girls. (Xinhua)

Booze ban off to slow start

By Han Manman

The Municipal Bureau of Commerce issued a regulation on Wednesday, banning all bars, shopping malls, supermarkets and convenience stores from selling alcoholic beverages to minors.

The regulations state that shopkeepers face warnings and fines up to 2,000 yuan if they

sell alcohol to minors. They are also required to display signs stating that they will not sell alcohol to minors.

However, the rule seems to have failed to have much effect as yet. Few cashiers had heard of the measures, much less begun to implement them.

Many doubted that the regulations could achieve the

desired effect. One customer, Huang Qi, said, "I'd heard about regulations like this being implemented in Shanghai before, but I didn't know we also have them in Beijing."

A cashier at one of Beijing's Jingkelong supermarkets said, "It is difficult to tell a customer's age, as a lot of them look older than they really are."

Brief News

Oxygen for passengers on highest railway

The Qinghai-Tibet railway, the world's highest and longest plateau railroad, will provide oxygen on trains to combat the effects of altitude sickness on passengers, during trial operation in July, according to Ma Baocheng, deputy manager of the Qinghai-Tibet Railways Company.

US\$900 million for rural students' tuition

A fund of over seven billion yuan (US\$900 million) launched last year made education without tuition fees available to 34 million students in primary and junior middle schools in central and western rural areas, said Wang Xuming, from the Ministry of Education.

US\$2 billion for farm irrigation

Over 15 billion yuan (US\$ two billion) has been spent to renovate key irrigation facilities, saving 12 billion cubic meters of water for farming over the past ten years, according to the Ministry of Water Resources.

Social insurance coverage extended

Pension insurance coverage is now available for over 170 million people, basic medical insurance for some 140 million people, and unemployment insurance for more than 100 million people as of the end of last year, said Liu Yongfu, vice-minister of Labor and Social Security.

Environmental NGOs short of funds

Over 70 percent of a total of some 2,800 non-governmental organizations committed to environment protection lack stable sources of operating funding, according to the All-China Environment Federation.

SCO joint anti-terror drill next year

The six-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) issued a plan to hold joint anti-terrorism military exercises next year in the Volga-Ural military district in Russia.

More foreigners register trademarks

Foreigners applied for over 70,000 trademark registrations last year, up more than 17 percent, according to the State Administration for Industry and Commerce.

International trade up 23 percent

The country's total imports and exports exceeded US\$1.4 trillion last year, up more than 23 percent, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Two billion yuan bond for subway construction

Beijing authorities issued a 10-year corporate bond of two billion yuan (US\$250 million) to fund the city's subway construction, according to Beijing Infrastructure Investment Company.

New apartments stand empty

Over 120 million square meters of space in new buildings was unoccupied at the end of March, up about 24 percent on March last year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Free patent services for individuals

The national Intellectual Property Office has established the country's first office to provide exclusive free services for individuals applying for, transferring and protecting patents.

Misleading adverts punished

Authorities investigated and punished nine cases involving misleading adverts, each of which involved over 500,000 yuan (US\$62,000), the State Administration for Industry and Commerce announced.

Endangered species smugglers caught

Police in Yunnan Province arrested some 20 suspects this week in their largest ever case involving the purchase, transportation and sale of 416 pangolins and 278 bear paws.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Weekly Review – World

MediaNews buys four papers from McClatchy

MediaNews Group Inc, publisher of *The Denver Post*, is acquiring four newspapers from The McClatchy Co. for US\$1 billion in cash with backing from Hearst Corp, another publishing company.

The four papers – the *San Jose Mercury News*, *Contra Costa Times*, *Monterey County Herald* and *St. Paul Pioneer Press* – are currently owned by Knight Ridder Inc., which McClatchy is buying.

The deal will strengthen MediaNews's presence in northern California, where it already owns several papers in the San Francisco Bay Area. MediaNews is a privately held company based in Denver and run by William Dean Singleton. (AP)

Strapped insurers flee coastal areas



(AFP Photo)

With the 2006 hurricane season starting in just five weeks, many home insurers from Texas to Florida to New York are canceling policies along the coast or refusing to sell new ones out of fear of another catastrophic storm.

Last year's hurricanes cost insurers a record US\$60 billion in claims payouts. Now Allstate, which paid out a record US\$5 billion in hurricane claims last year, is canceling 95,000 policies in Florida and 28,000 in New York. (USA Today)

Greece to present Olympic Airlines restructuring plan

Greece said it has a "ready and complete" proposal to submit to the European Commission concerning its plans to restructure Olympic Airlines.

Earlier, the European Commission said it was suing Greece before the EU's highest court over its failure to recover hundreds of million euros in illegal aid to the state-run Olympic Airlines and its predecessor, Olympic Airways since 2002.

There is an interest in Olympic by Greek and foreign investors, some of them Arab-based, and by private equity funds. (AFP)

Unions protest Wal-Mart health care

Unions representing six million workers planned to rally in 35 cities from New York to Los Angeles to protest what they called inadequate health care coverage by Wal-Mart Stores Inc, the US' largest employer.

The protestors said Wal-Mart failed to cover 57 percent of its work force, or 775,000 employees. Criticizers say Wal-Mart epitomizes a business model of low pay and benefits that drag down the middle class.

Wal-Mart defended that it created 225,000 US jobs last year and provides career opportunities and above-average pay and benefits for the retail sector. (AP)

Anheuser-Busch profit beats estimate



Reuters Photo

Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc., the largest US brewer, posted earnings that topped Wall Street estimates.

The company said first-quarter net sales rose to US\$3.76 billion from US\$3.56 billion a year earlier.

The US beer industry has suffered in recent years as consumer tastes have shifted toward cocktails and wine, forcing Anheuser-Busch to offer multiple discounts to try to drive volume higher. (Reuters)

Sinochem plans to expand production in Africa

Sinochem Corp, China's fourth largest oil firm, plans to expand its production base by scooping up assets in Africa, backed by its view that oil prices will remain high, a top executive revealed.

The company plans to spend as much as US\$2 billion in projects outside China over the next three to five years - ramping up from just US\$250 million over the last three years, Sinochem Vice President Han Gensheng, who oversees the company's exploration and production program, said in an interview.

Sinochem, known for its trading operations, has recently ventured into oil exploration outside China as it pushes ahead in its ambition to become an integrated oil firm.

"We are very interested in Africa and South America," said Han.

According to Han, Sinochem, which already has projects in Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Ecuador, plans to bid in Libya's oil and gas licensing round later this year and is eyeing other African nations like Nigeria and Ghana.

Unlike the large Western majors, which have adopted a cautious approach to raising spending based on record prices, Sinochem says it is betting that oil prices will stay high over the next few years, turning once marginal oilfields into potentially profitable ventures.

Sinochem evaluates investing in a project under the assumption that oil prices will be at least US\$50 a barrel over the long-term, Han said.

Large Western majors like Exxon and Chevron, by comparison, have been re-

luctant to raise their own internal forecasts to match oil's dizzy rise in recent years and use oil price assumptions of between US\$20 and US\$30 a barrel to evaluate projects.

Despite their smaller size and relative lack of experience, Western oil companies are becoming wary of Chinese firms like Sinochem, fearing they will be outbid for contracts.

In the most prominent example of that threat so far, Chinese offshore producer CNOOC last year locked horns with Chevron in a battle to acquire US oil producer Unocal Corp, though it lost out in the end due to US political opposition.

Oil prices have surged from about US\$20 in 2002 to record highs over US\$75 a barrel last week, propelled by fears of supply disruptions and rapidly growing demand in India and China.

Han reckons Chinese demand could grow by as much as 25 percent by 2010, given the country's booming economy and the rising energy demand to fuel that growth.

Even if the Chinese government's policies on energy conservation - designed to curb its growing appetite for oil - were to work, China's energy demand would still jump by 15 percent over the next five years, he said.

Still, Han said he believed oil at between US\$40 and US\$45 a barrel would more accurately reflect the supply and demand of oil in the market, judging that speculation by traders accounted for US\$15 in current prices and geopolitical worries over disruptions adding another US\$10 a barrel. (Xinhua)

Saudi Aramco to build refineries in China

By Han Manman

The world's largest oil producer Saudi Aramco have announced they will set up two joint venture refineries with China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec) in China's Fujian and Qingdao.

Aramco, which turns out eight million barrels of oil per day, or one-tenth of the world's total, has promised a daily supply of one million barrels of crude oil to Sinopec, China's largest petroleum products producer and supplier, by 2010. The announcement came when Chinese President Hu Jintao was in Saudi Arabia for a state visit.

Saudi Aramco and Sinopec agreed to establish the Fujian Ethylene Joint Venture and the Fujian Marketing Joint Venture this year and agreed that the Refining and Ethylene Integrated Project will begin production by early 2009. The Qingdao refinery will start production before 2008.

When the contract is fulfilled, 70 percent of Sinopec's crude imports will come from Saudi Arabia. Now oil from Saudi accounts for 55 to 60 percent of Sinopec's crude imports.



Maglev line into full operation

Shanghai's maglev line, built with German technology and put into trial operation two years ago, passed state comprehensive testing this week. The line is ready for com-

mercial use.

The maglev line runs for 30 kilometers, linking one of Shanghai airports with the city's financial district. It can travel up to

430 kilometers per hour.

As of the end of March, the maglev train has carried 6.2 million passengers and run 2.4 million kilometers.

China: construction helps copper shine

Your copper plumbing has probably beaten your stock portfolio this year

Copper hit a record US\$3.408 a pound on the New York Mercantile Exchange Tuesday, fueled by huge demand from China, labor unrest in Mexico and fears of production slowdowns in Chile.

April copper futures gained nearly 21 cents a pound, a 6.7 percent gain. This year, copper has soared 62 percent, according to the New York Mercantile Exchange, vs. a 4.3 percent gain for the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index.

The world economy has been growing strongly, and economic growth typically boosts demand for copper, which is used in plumbing, electronics and automobiles.

China is one of the most potent economic engines. "They're snapping up all the copper supply they can get," says Richard Asplund, chief economist for the Commodities Research Bureau.

China's gross domestic product grew at

a sizzling 10.1% annual pace in the first quarter.

But it's not just China, says S&P analyst Leo Larson. "Japan's economy is coming back, and the US economy is growing stronger," he says.

The US housing boom has lifted copper demand, too. Building accounts for 46 percent of all US copper use – the average single-family home uses 440 pounds.

Many homes now use plastic pipes, but cars may be using more copper soon. "Open the hood of a hybrid car, and you'll see the copper wire in its electric motor," says Ken Heebner, manager of CGM Capital Development fund.

Yet supply remains tight. A strike at a mine owned by Grupo Mexico, the world's seventh-largest copper producer, could further restrict supply. Miners in Chile, the largest copper-producing coun-

try, are threatening to strike, too.

Water shortages in Chilean mines could slow production more. Copper processing requires huge amounts of water, and many Chilean mines are near the Atacama desert. Chile's government recently limited how much water the Dona Ines de Collahuasi copper mine can use.

The bull market in copper has pushed up the prices of other metals, too. Silver closed at US\$12.56 an ounce Tuesday, a 23-year high. Zinc closed at an all-time high of US\$3,411 a metric ton.

Big price rises mean that it likely costs more than a penny to make a penny now. The U.S. mint says it cost 0.97 cents to make a penny last year including labor; sharp increases in zinc and copper may have pushed that above 1 cent. A penny is 97.5 percent zinc, 2.5 percent copper. (USA Today)

Weekly Review – Nation

ICBC increases loans to small firms

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), the nation's biggest commercial bank, has said it had granted 46.3 billion yuan (US\$5.8 billion) in loans to small firms in the first quarter this year.

Chinese government is encouraging loans to small firms as they are contributing to economic growth.

ICBC said the non-performing rate of loans to small businesses was below the average of all lending.

Its outstanding loans to small firms stood at 102.3 billion yuan at the end of last month. These loans surged 70 percent in 2005. (Xinhua)

EU confident of toy safety deal

China and European Union have reached an agreement to ensure the safety of Chinese toys exported to the 25 member countries.

Robert Madelin, EU director-general for health and consumer protection, said in Beijing yesterday that both sides had initiated an EU-China Road Map for Safer Toys and are already implementing it.

China is the largest toy exporter to the EU, accounting for 80 per cent of the toy imports. (Xinhua)

Eight new indicators of China provide insight into key sectors

By Chen Shasha

Xinhua Finance Ltd, the leading financial information and media organization of China, in partnership with the Milken Institute, announced eight new economic indicators on April 25.

The new indicators are: the Chinese Banking Sector Indicator, the RMB Indicator, the Chinese Initial Public Offering Indicator, the Chinese Market-Adjusted Debt Indicator, the Chinese Mergers and Acquisitions Indicator, the Chinese Privatization and Joint Venture Indicator, the Chinese Corporate Governance Indicator and the Trade Openness Indicator.

Gome president wins global award

By Han Manman

Huang Guangyu, the founder of Gome Appliances, China's biggest electronics retailer, and arguably the richest man in China, received the 'Outstanding Entrepreneur Award' at the 10th World Summit of Young Entrepreneurs (WSYE) in Brazil.

More than 1,200 young CEOs and Presidents of companies from over 82 countries attended the forum.

The World Summit of Young Entrepreneurs, established in Canada in 1993, has always been coordinated as an integral part of major global UN conferences.

Drink Chinese milk in Disney

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Domestic dairy manufacturer Mengniu Group and Hong Kong Disneyland have announced that Mengniu will become the milk provider for the park as well as two Disney hotels in Hong Kong.

Yang Wenjun, president of Mengniu, said that they had not paid a high price to win the contract.

"The main investment will be for the milk stands and mini coaches in the park," he said.

Wu Tong, a spokesman for Mengniu, implied that the two companies might cooperate further in promoting brands and marketing in the future.

Corning to set up first plant in China

By Han Manman

Corning Inc., the world's largest maker of glass for large liquid crystal displays, said on Monday it plans to build its first Chinese LCD glass plant in Beijing.

They said last month that its first Chinese LCD glass plant would, like similar investments, typically start off as a glass-finishing facility, usually requiring investment of around US\$1 billion or more in investment over time.

By Gareth George

During the 20th century, China experienced the fastest industrial revolution of all time. According to *The World Economy: Historical Statistics* by Angus Maddison, today China produces some 15 percent of the world's total output. In little more than 20 years, China's industry has sprinted to a level it took the US nearly 100 years to reach. And dotted around China's landscape are the relics of this transformation: factories and warehouses the cocoon like remains of a nation's rebirth. But what use does China have for these places now?

Last week, national and local government officials gathered in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, to discuss the preservation of China's industrial heritage. The meeting took place at the BCM Life Arts Center, a renovated warehouse on the Wuxi River. But if the old factories and warehouses are no longer practically useful in their present incarnation, what can be done with them? How can these ageing structures continue to rub shoulders with the metal and glass skyscrapers that today's economic boom throws up? In a society where everything is new, new, new, is there any place for the relics of China's industrial past?

Wuxi: industry's heartland

No other city represents China's economic explosion quite like Wuxi. As deputy mayor Yang Weize explained at China's first symposium on industrial heritage, appropriately held in the city, the Wuxi of 100 years ago was an inconsequential backwater. By 1937 it had become the sixth largest industrial and economic center in China. Wuxi opened herself to industry, and her proximity to the largest commercial center led to



Inside the renovated warehouse

Photos by Lionel Derimaïs

the nickname 'Little Shanghai'.

Wuxi has a premium on industrial heritage. Silk factories, flour mills, dockyards, and electronics factories line up along the Wuxi Yunhe. Wuxi is China's industrial heartland. Before the revolution, and long before Deng Xiaoping's economic reform, she was already industrializing, doing business with Shanghai's European overspill.

Yang explained that Wuxi would be a test case. To combat pollution, China intends to take industry out of the city. The symposium was intended to address the fact that at the moment, any factories or warehouses that still stand are still in use – what will become of them when industry moves to the outskirts?

Yu Kongjian, landscape architecture professor at Beijing University, stated that "More important than preservation is function – these places have to be viable."

Even before the meeting began, it was clear that it was impractical to maintain these sites for posterity. "They need to be fully functioning places of beauty," Yu added, "Meeting places, art galleries, coffee shops. To be used in the long term. We need to take what's there, preserve it, and recreate it for the future. And in this way we'll make China's heritage a part of her future, and an open part."

The BCM Center

You could see why the BCM Center was chosen for the meeting. On a schizophrenic street with south China's mini 'high rise' *hutongs* on one side and a school so modern it features a rooftop garden on the other, the building gives a nod to Wuxi's roots, while suggesting how the city sees herself now – enjoying the rewards of more than half a century's back breaking labor. Inside, brickwork is exposed, metal unpolished. Matte wooden beams and unvarnished floors display black and white photos of smokestacks and river boats. Dotted around are boldly colored sofas, ivory pebbles, and huge glass walls and ceilings creating a conservatory effect.

It wasn't to everyone's taste. Some, like Tsinghua University's Zhang He, thought the modern features of the BCM were "Unnecessary meddling which detract from the historical spirit." This became the most hotly contested point of the symposium – how much can be distorted before making something 'viable' destroys its historical value.

Nearby is an old cotton factory, still in full working order. Long ago, it was the first project of now famous businessman Rong Zongjin. The workers there are looking forward to being relocated when the time comes. New facilities will be a bonus. More modern conditions too. And they are happy that their old places of work won't immediately fall to the bulldozer. Many of the families have worked there for generations. Alongside stands one of China's oldest flour mills, already a partial building site, already



The BCM Center today

Preserving China's industrial heritage



Old factories like this may soon be a thing of the past.



Heritage needs protecting

sporting shimmering new glasswork. "It's about to become a museum of industrial heritage," said Yu Kongjian. "The workers at the cotton factory will be able to visit and see the work of their parents becoming part of China's history." Surely a fitting conclusion to any patriot's working life.

Getting the balance of industry right

Mrs Zhang, of Wuxi's department of culture and heritage protection, said, "I want Wuxi to become an industrial heritage leader," she says firmly. New to this department, Zhang spent 21 years working in industry and she's seen how management decisions can take their toll on the historical buildings. "Wuxi has some of the oldest industrial buildings in China. But as long as they're in use, managers have to make decisions to improve conditions for their workers or to expand to match demand. Often this means irreparable damage to histori-

cally valuable sites." Now she and her colleagues are working to protect what remains for future generations. "The value is incalculable to history. We always have to make tough decisions, as it is often difficult to say what future generations will deem important." But the situation is improving. Every year more funds are set aside to help Zhang with her work. "And when the factories are relocated outside the city, the current workforce will be transferred too, along with their jobs. This was very important to me – today's people shouldn't have to suffer to preserve the past, regardless of the value."

Protecting heritage and the environment

"The thing with Wuxi, like many cities in China, is that industry has always been inside the city," says Gu Yucai, executive vice president for the national element of International Council on Monuments and Sites. His role is the protection of monuments and sites within the state administration of cultural heritage. His problem is pollution. "The old factories are all well and good as relics, but as factories, they are impractical, and their proximity to where people live makes the cities unhealthy." The reason he's pleased is that it seems as though environmental protection and historical protection will go hand in hand. "We plan to move industry to the outskirts of the cities to reduce pollution. Then, the historical factories can be turned into leisure or business facilities more in tune with the way people live today."

The only problem is that not every site can be saved. "And that's the aim of our symposium today – to decide on criteria as to which sites to renovate based on where they are, what they can be used for and their historical value. We will also decide on how much a site can be altered based on the same ideas."

Key to the symposium is that the sites become a part of China's future, not merely relics of her past.

But it's true that they don't make 'em like they used to. The majority of the sites being talked about are solid structures built of hard brick, fired in traditional Chinese kilns. "Here at the BCM Center, you can still see the characters on the bricks that denote the brick maker." Gu wants to propose that these relics of China's industrial resurgence become symbols of the affluence she has earned: an old cotton factory might become a museum, a leisure complex, a cafe. An old warehouse might be a cinema. Unfortunately this means that mere historical value can't determine a building's survival. "We need to show the spaces can get a return on their investment." And the first rule of property is: Location, location, location.

But the very fact that some buildings can and will be saved is a positive in itself. Gu visited the Philippines recently. "I saw a country that had never addressed its industrial heritage. Now it doesn't have one. If we don't act now, there is a risk that this will be our fate."

Shanqijiang Park

Professor Yu Kongjian talked about his work in progress: Shanqijiang Park in Shanghai on the Huangpu River. The park was originally Zhongshan Yuezhong Shipyard. The site dates back 200 years and was a Chinese port, later used by the Europeans. In 1999 the shipyard went bankrupt.

The area became a dead space: unused, polluted, ignored. The Shanghai government wanted to draw people back to the site, this time as tourists. They wanted to make the site economically viable as an attractive destination for businesses.

Yu's brief was to change the aesthetic of the landscape to make it more appealing. Using existing features like rail-tracks and heavy machinery, he added indigenous plants and grasses as well as water features. He changed the water levels of so the polluted element of the river wasn't so prominent. An old bank became a tea house; a smoke stack a contemporary lighthouse. After the initial rebuilding, the site immediately became a popular location for wedding photographs. Money was saved by preserving and maintaining original features. Through this, the history of the site is also acknowledged, while the space itself is unmistakably modern.



Mourners weep at Cong's funeral.

CFP Photo

Charity ambassador's last wish comes true

By Han Manman

Thousands gathered at a Shenzhen Funeral Home Wednesday to pay their last respects to Cong Fei, a well-known singer who devoted his life to charity work. Cong died of stomach cancer in Shenzhen last week, at the age of 37.

Cong moved China with his kindness and generosity, and even in death he continued to help others. His corneas have been donated to five sufferers from eye disease to date, helping them regain their sight. At Wednesday's funeral, four of the five who received Cong's donation held a banner, which read, 'We will use your eyes to see this beautiful world.'

Less than an hour after Cong's death, Yao Xiaoming, executive chairman of the Lions Eye Bank of Shenzhen, collected Cong's corneas, in accordance with the star's last wishes. "I received a phone call from Cong's wife Xing Dan last week, three days before Cong passed away. She told me he had two last wishes. One was to donate his beloved piano to the handicapped, the other was to donate his corneas to those who needed them," Yao said, "Xing Dan said to me, if we can's help him fulfill his wish, he will die with regret."

Cong's piano is the only one he owned worth a significant amount of money. Since 1994, Cong has donated nearly all his earnings from performances, totaling more than 3 million yuan (US\$375,000), to help pay the tuition fees for 178 children in poverty-stricken areas. He lived frugally himself over the years, and even found it hard to pay for medical treatment. He left debts of 170,000 yuan accumulated because of his support for the children's studies.

Many called him 'stupid', but Cong always said, "If I am stupid, then, I'm willing to be stupid in my life."

In February last year, Cong was selected as a person who moved the whole nation in a special national program organized by China Central Television.

Piecing together the past

By Lucky Zhang

Two rural women, Liu Fengying and Liu Yinzhi, have been restoring cultural relics for 20 years. They have restored a large amount of valuable pottery by putting together small and dirty pieces discovered in Beijing, and other provinces like Hebei and Shanxi. Much of their work is now displayed in museums.

"We started our cultural relic restoration career in 1986," said Liu Fengying. In 1984, the Shangzhai Neolithic Site was discovered in a village of that name in Pinggu district, Beijing. More than 100 ceramic artifacts and stone implements, including pots, earthen bowls, cups, millstones, and stone axes were unearthed. Beijing Cultural Relic Research Institute recruited local villagers to help with the excavation, and Liu Fengying and Liu Yinzhi were among those selected.

In 1986, the two women began to restore unearthed pottery and stone implements, under the guidance and instruction of staff from the Beijing Cultural Relic Research Institute.

"Although we have been doing restoration work for almost 20 years, we haven't felt bored or tired of doing it," said Liu Fengying. "We two have worked together very well over the years."

"At the beginning, there were four or five people working with us on the restoration. But some of them quit because they think it is boring, and some because they were getting old," added Liu Yinzhi.



Liu Fengying (left) and Liu Yinzhi piece together a pot.

Photo by Jackie Zhang

"In fact, we received little guidance from professionals, because all of them were quite busy. We have accumulated work experience and have tried to find out the skills and means for restoring cultural relics," said Liu Yinzhi.

"It is hard to say how much time we need to restore a relic," Liu Fengying said, "When the relics are sent to our work station, they are all in pieces. We have to clean them first and then piece them together. Sometimes, we can renovate one or

two relics one day, while sometimes we need one or two days to renovate one relic."

"It depends on the shape, the size, and the pattern on the relics," added Liu Yinzhi, "For one big pot, we have to cooperate together to restore it. I might hold

the pot in my arms while she sticks the pieces together."

The last group of pottery artifacts that Liu Fengying and Liu Yinzhi restored was unearthed in Zhangjiaying in Beijing's Changping District. "There were altogether 300 to 400 items and we spent around four months on the restoration," said Liu Yinzhi.

"The most difficult part of the work is restoring patterns," said Liu Fengying, "We have to prepare mud first, and the mud should not be too wet or dry. Then, we apply the mud to the pottery and try to make the patterns just the same as they were before."

Another difficult part of the work is reproducing cultural relics. For this, making molds is the key to producing something close to the original. "We have to know the right hardness for the wax mold. When we take the mold off from the original relics, the strength we use is important also, since if we take it off with too much strength, the mold will be destroyed and we would have to start again."

Liu Fengying and Liu Yinzhi have reproduced several pottery artifacts, mostly various types of ancient vessels.

The two women earn less than 1,000 yuan per month for their painstaking work, but neither has thought of finding a job that pays more money. "I don't think money is the most important thing. That is that we enjoy the work," said Liu Fengying.

Architectural designs honored in Beijing award ceremony

By Chen Shasha

April 26 saw 16 architects honored at the Business Week and Architecture Record China Awards, part of the 2006 Global Construction Summit.

Among the projects honored were Jianwai SOHO and the Villa Shizilin in Beijing, which won in the best residential project category, the Jianfu Palace Garden in the Forbidden City honored as the best preservation project, and the 2008 Olympic Park which won best green project.

The principle of the awards was that all the design works selected should help make companies more profitable, government agencies more efficient and culture organizations more popular. "And of course, they must be beautiful designs," said Clifford Pearson, deputy editor of *Architecture Record*.

However, what's good for designers, government and clients don't necessarily mean a successful project. In the forum that followed the award ceremony, architects, journalists and specialists from different countries gathered to discuss how architecture projects can fit with people's lifestyles. "Our design projects should be leaders of a fashionable and healthy life, sometimes ahead of what people think," said Fanny Lee, vice president of the American Institute of Architects Hong Kong.

Green development

Green projects, where there is a commitment by the client to ensure a sustainable and environmentally responsible project, were also much discussed. Heavy pollution in Beijing has meant more developers pay attention not only to the environment around their projects, but also to recycling inside the houses. "A good design shouldn't be a burden on the environment, but contribute to it," said Michael Grove, senior associate of Sasaki, designer of the 2008 Olympic Park. Grove believes the park will be act as a free and healthy landscape for Beijing's residents after the 2008 Olympic games.

Tradition

Also on the agenda was the balance between the preservation of traditional architecture and modern buildings. The Jianfu Palace Garden is a successful example of modern techniques being used to develop an ancient building. The original blueprints were lost in a fire in 1923, meaning the designer of the Jianfu Palace had no reference on which to base new ideas of what it should be like. "At the time the reconstruction work, China became more confident and more focus was put on preservation of native culture," said Happy Harun, chief manager of the Cultural Relic Preservation Fund of China.

The 2006 Global Construction Summit ended in April 27, the second time the summit has been held in China.

Climbers to clean up Everest

By Jiang Xubo

Volunteers aged over 20 from around the world can apply now to take part in a campaign to clean up Mount Everest. Applications will be open until May 7.

Volunteers committed to environment protection and with experience living at altitudes over 3,500 meters above sea level are preferred.

One Successful candidate will be chosen by May 16 after three rounds of physical tests, and will join a final team of 20 to 30.

The team will fly to Tibet on May 22, and the event is scheduled to last until World Environment Day in early June.

This is the third time the event has been held, and the campaign will continue each year through to 2008.



Wu Qiaoying now

Photos provided by Beverly Hospital

By Han Manman

The first operation to remove the testicles of 19-year-old intersexual Wu Qiaoying was performed successfully this week. Ms. Wu is the first person to receive the free treatment offered by China's first sex reassignment center at the Beverly Hospital in Fuzhou, the capital of Fujian Province.

The help center, which opened on April 23, is aimed at

Sex reassignment success makes woman whole

providing the most professional care possible to Chinese sex reassignment patients, including free surgery where appropriate.

According to Dr. Chen Ming, who is in charge of Qiaoying's case, a intersexual person could be considered to be half man and half woman or double-sexed, a person who possesses the sexual organs of both male and female. This was the case with Qiaoying, who was born with both ovary and testicular tissue, but neither set of glands were complete. "After removing Qiaoying's testicles, we will perform breast implant surgery and create a vagina for her. The whole process will take at least

six months," said Dr. Chen.

Chen said such cases are rare, affecting only one in every million people, but those it does often suffer from self-loathing and other psychosocial issues, so therapy will form part of Qiaoying's treatment.

Qiaoying, from Sichuan, says she is now able to walk across the room from her bed. "I believed I was an ordinary girl for 16 years until I took the social hygiene lesson in my middle school. At that time, I noticed that my body was very different from what the book said," Qiaoying said, "When I went for a hospital examination, the results scared me."

The same year, Qiaoying began to grow facial hair, and her face became more and more masculine in appearance. In the street, she found some people looking at her and talking about her. "No one knows how I endured these years. I worked in a restaurant as if I was an ordinary woman. However, some customers asked me if I was a man or woman. I wanted to say loudly that I'm a woman, but I couldn't, because I know I am not," Qiaoying says in a voice filled with emotion.

When choosing which sex to assign for Qiaoying, Dr. Chen said that since both of her sets of sexual organs were incomplete, the hospital decided to fix Qiaoying's status as a woman

based on psychiatric testing and Qiaoying's own choice.

When asked about her love life, Qiaoying says, "I like both men and women, I'm worried about it but I can't control myself. But the doctors said when they help me to reduce my male features and give me more female hormones, these feelings will likely disappear."

According to hospital president Mr. Lin, China's intersexual surgery is now quite mature, and success rates are over 80 percent. He also disclosed that a second intersexual patient has recently contacted the center.



Wu Qiaoying when she was a teenager

Test tube baby wins birthright

By Wang Xiaoyuan

A court in Nanjing, passed a judgment this week to confirm the inheritance rights of a child born by artificial insemination. This is the first case of its kind in China. Zhang Panpan, the fifteen-month-old baby at the center of the case, had his inheritance rights restored in a judgment made in line with an official circular from China's Supreme Court on the issue. This stated that, 'A child born with the agreement of both husband and wife should be considered as their legal offspring. The rights of the child should be in accordance with those in the Marriage Law and Inheritance Law.'

Panpan is the child of Zhang Xiaojun and Yu Li. Yu, 42, did not get pregnant during six years of marriage. In agreement with Zhang, Yu underwent artificial insemination. Unfortunately, during her pregnancy in May 2004, Zhang died of cancer. To make matters worse, Zhang denied the baby was his legal son

in his will, and left his house to his parents. Yu negotiated for her baby's patrimony with her parents-in-law for half a year. After a long-running series of quarrels and disputes, she filed suit against her parents-in-law in December 2005. On April 20 this year, Yu's lawyer showed to the court an application and agreement for artificial insemination with Zhang's signature. According to China's Inheritance Law, the deceased's will should take precedence, which would have left Panpan with no inheritance from his father. The court found that as Zhang had denied the identity of Panpan because he was born by artificial insemination, his will should be considered invalid. Although there is no specific legislation on the rights of children born in this way, Panpan as a minor in this case was awarded one sixth of the family home. Yu, as Zhang's widow and Panpan's mother and guardian, won overall ownership of the house.

Breaking up is easy - with professional help

By Chu Meng

Stock investors have professional marketing analysts, businessmen have accountants, and now Beijing's lovers on the look-out for a way out can get professional instructions from experts on breaking up, all for just 50 yuan.

The service is provided by a Break-up Agency, which opened this week. The agency seeks to help people break fewer hearts at the often painful end of the affair. The agency has a prominent advert placed on the home page of China's most-visited net portal Sina.com. It was set up by two young Beijingers, Li Jianmin, and Jiang Wen, and they are now the only two members of staff. An old

Chinese saying has it that 'It is better to demolish ten temples than to damage one marriage', so what made the pair believe their service will be helpful?

Li is 28 years old and an out-going young man. He says he's had some unhappy love experiences in the past, which left him quite bitter. "But I believe I learned something from those experiences, a kind of philosophy, which I really want to share with others," he says, "We are definitely not in the business of telling people not to cherish love, or turning them into playboys and playgirls. We tell them how to handle a break-up properly, both physically and mentally."

His partner Jiang was

more shy, but did reveal the surprising information that she and Li had been a couple for three years. Jiang said they serve only unmarried lovers, not married couples seeking divorce. There are in fact two stages to the service, she said: first comes an attempt at reconciliation, and only if that fails do Jiang and Li help their clients break up in the least painful way possible.

To date the pair have successfully overseen the break-up of five couples. Li said that their work could reduce future divorce rates. "You can't put a price on people's emotions. Our charges only cover basic expenses. We do not run this agency to make money."

Using wheat to fight the sand

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Wheat has become the new weapon to prevent sand pollution in Haidian District. The administration of the district predicted that wheat might take the place of a proposed artificial green belt.

Thirty grams of wheat seeds have been planted in abandoned land by a construction site near Madian Xi Lu. Meng Jingyi from the administra-

tion said, "The idea of planting wheat emerged from our group discussion. It takes two or three years to grow a lawn, while wheat is much faster. It takes only seven days to sprout, so by July there will be a green barrier. The wheat roots can keep the soil locked in and store water."

Meng also emphasized that economy is an important factor when considering environmental protection. Compared

with a green net costing thousands of yuan, wheat is much cheaper. "We spent only one hundred yuan on the wheat seeds. We, along with the construction company, will take care of the wheat. A natural shield is always better than an artificial one."

However, using wheat as a green belt is still being tested and it will take time to see if it is feasible. Guo Jiasong from the Wheat Center of Beijing

Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences said, "Wheat can grow in any kind of earth. Though it grows much faster than grass, it has to be planted each year. The best season to plant is autumn, and harvest in May or June. If it is planted in spring, the wheat usually grows eighty to ninety centimeters high and dies after the summer. For long-term protection grass is perhaps more suitable."

Community helps to remove cataracts

By Jiang Xubo

Li Shixiu, a 65-year-old farmer from northwest China's Qinghai Province, strolled joyfully through Tiananmen Square Wednesday free from cataracts in her eyes.

A community in Beijing helped pay for cataract removal operations for five farmers, two women and three men, from Li's village.

The farmers, aged between 37 and 69, walked without any assistance for the first time in several years. They could only shuffle around within their shacks several days ago, groping their way.

Yinghua Eye Hospital, a private hospital in Baoding, Hebei Province, offered free cataract removal operations for the farmers on Monday. Yi Zilong, the owner of the hospital, performed the operations.

"I just want to make sure the operations are done properly," said Li, who is also a resident of the Green Town community, located in Daxing



Photo by Icy Qian

County.

Around 40 households in the community donated a total of 10,000 yuan (about US\$1,250) for the operations in the past several days.

"The money will be used to cover all their expenses. And we are thinking about setting up a fund with what is left for poor people with eye diseases," said Yao Qingsong, a resident who launched the plan on the community's BBS.

Two residents from the community found these farmers last week while traveling to Qinghai.

Shoot the Tiananmen police — with a camera

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau and Beijing Photographer's Association are soliciting photographs of the police around Tian'anmen area from the public. The selected works will form part of the Tian'anmen Police Photography Exhibition in the Capital Police Museum this August.

There is no limitation on time, location, style or topics. There is no limit on the number of single photographs that can be submitted. One can submit no more than three sets, each containing no more than six photos. The size of each photo should be ten inches in length.

The photographer's information should be written on the back of the photos — full name, career, telephone number and mailing address. The deadline for

submissions is July 20.

Any form of photo manipulation is forbidden and will be considered cheating.

178 photos will be selected for the exhibition. The winner will be awarded 10,000 yuan, and the photo will be kept by the Public Security Bureau; the second and third placed winners will get 5,000 yuan and 1,000 yuan. Their photos will be kept by the Capital Police Museum and Tiananmen Police Station. All the other selected works will be exhibited in August and each photographer will receive 300 yuan for each photo used.

Submit photos to Ji Ning, Tian'an Men Police Photography Exhibition, Beijing Photographers' Association, No.7 West Chang'an Avenue, Beijing 100031 Tel: 6601 1145



Yaji Mountain fair reopens after two year break

By Lucky Zhang

The temple fair held on Yaji Mountain starts today. Yaji Mountain is located in Pinggu District in the northeastern part of Beijing. Since it looks like two ancient hair coils, the mountain was named Yaji (which means a girl's hair coils).

The Yaji temple fair has a history of around 400 years, and is one of four popular temple fairs in the north of China. The other fairs are at Taishan Mountain in Shandong Province, Qiushan Mountain in Henan Province, and Baiyun Mountain in Shaanxi Province.

However, the fair was cancelled for two years due to renovations to the temple, which were completed last weekend. "It cost more than 10 million yuan to renovate buildings covering an area of more than 2,000 square meters," said Ding Baohua, the director of the cultural relic center, Pinggu Culture Committee.

Zhang Jiuhue, the former mayor of Liujadian, a town on Yaji Mountain, is in charge of the renovation work. He said that the Mountain's renovation work began in 2004

because it was included in the 'People's Olympics' cultural relic protection plan. "Renovation was done on almost all the main buildings on the mountain, such as Zixiao Palace, Dongyue Temple, Wanshou Pavilion and the Bixia-yuanjun Ancestral Temple."

"Yaji Mountain has a long history and was culturally important to royal families of the Ming and Qing dynasties. We hope that more people will come and visit when the renovation is done," said Zhang.

"According to tradition, the Yaji temple fair should be held from April 1 to 20 on the Chinese Lunar Calendar. Today is April 1 on the Chinese Lunar Calendar, so the temple fair starts today," said Zhang Jiuhue.

Zhang said that they would try to organize an authentic fair. The main reason people come to the fair is to burn incense sticks and pray. "The gods represented on Yaji Mountain are the same ones on Taishan Mountain (in Shandong province). There are a great number of believers coming here to pray for health and good luck."



Photo by CFP

World Carnival returns to Beijing

By Han Manman

Beijing World Carnival will open for a third successive year on May 1, a move that is unprecedented in the carnival's history: normally only one city is selected each year to host the carnival.

The carnival will be open for four months, from May 1 to August 29. The venue will still be Shijingshan International Sculpture Park.

The tokens used in the past will not work this year, but the price will stay the same (50 yuan). New rides and attractions will be added, 42 of the attractions will have an Italian theme, and half of the games will be new to Beijingers.

World Carnival is organized by William Stevens, a sixth-generation member of a family that has taken the World Carnival to different parts of the world for the past 120 years.



Photo by Icy Qian

Cheer with Olympic cocktails

By Wang Xiaoyuan

An 'Olympic' series of cocktails won the gold medal in the creation round at the China-Germany Bartender Competition held by Beijing Municipal Bureau of Tourism. Now the cocktails are available in Beijing's main hotels.

The five cocktails are based on Chinese alcohol: Er Guotou, Zhu Yeqing, Gui Huachen, Chinese brandy and rose liqueur. After adding in other ingredients the drinks transform into the Olympic colors red, yellow, black, green and blue. The Olympic mascots, Friendlies, sculpted from pumpkins, are decorated on the glass. The cocktail series is also given the name Bei Jing Huan Ying Ni, (Friendlies).

Wang Jian, a bartender from the Friendship Hotel, made a glass of Nini and revealed the recipe, "I use rose liqueur as the base and then add peppermint, syrup, and three grams of orange juice. Then the cocktail turns a bright green. It tastes very refreshing."

Wang Jiabin, another bartender, used Chinese brandy with coffee, cocoa and coke to mix a glass of Jingjing, black and white representing the panda of the Friendlies.

Free training for pet dogs

By Jiang Xubo

Dog owners in Chaoyang District can have their dogs trained for free thanks to a program sponsored by the local government.

Pet dogs, 70 per group, will be taught when it is proper to bark and excrete in the three hour training course.

"We want to encourage owners to raise their pets to be mannerly and to try not to disturb their neighbors," said Wang Shufu, a policeman from the office for regulations on pet dogs in the district's public security authority.

The center plans to offer this service twice a week at weekends from May 10. A team of five professional dog trainers is on hand.

The center can train all the dogs from a community at one time. Local police will arrange shuttle buses between communities and the center for owners and their dogs, all for free. Training schedules are being compiled with the assistance of resident committees in communities across the district.

All of the over 30,000 registered pet dogs across Chaoyang District are expected to take this training course at least once within two years, according to Wang.

Hike into the west

By Chen Shasha

Hikers now have the opportunity to retrace the route of the famous *Journey to the West* by Xuan Zang, a Tang Dynasty monk who traveled to India around 1,200 years ago to learn about Buddhism.

In his 19-year journey, Xuan Zang traveled through Shanxi, Xinjiang, and Gansu provinces in China, then crossed Pakistan and Nepal before finally arriving at Nalanda Temple in India.

To commemorate the journey two monks, Ming Xian from the Chinese mainland and Hui Kuan from Taiwan, will follow the trail from July 19 to November 20. A worldwide campaign is also being launched to select hikers with no restrictions on age, religion or race to join the trip with Ming Xian and Hui Kuan.

A series of cultural campaigns are also taking place, with live broadcasts on Guangdong TV. The candidates will have opportunities to talk with famous people from different circles on their way to India, and meet the same difficulties faced in *Journey to the West*.

The application form will be available in early May, according to Shi Zhongyao, the secretary-general of the hiker selection campaign.

Circus cheers for May holiday

By Lucky Zhang

China Big Circus kicks off their big show today in Chaoyang Park. The performance is in a traditional European style and is performed by Chinese and Russian circus staff. Horses, lions, bears, wolves, boas and cute dogs and cats will take part in the performance.

The audience will be invited to take part. They will have the chance to experience riding a fast-running horse and have a boa entwined around their bodies.

"Our performance will last for ten days till next weekend," said Liu Yiliang from the performance organizing committee. "Acrobatic performances will also be included."

Performances will take place four times a day at 10am, 12:30pm, 3pm and 5:30pm. Ticket prices range from 60 yuan to 230 yuan.



Photo by Zhang Nan



De Backer and his cabinets

A Ming addict

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Philippe De Backer, a collector of Ming furniture for 20 years, felt his dreams had come true when seventy-nine pieces from his collection were exhibited in the Forbidden City.

All the furniture exhibited is made of Huanghuali (literally the yellow flower of the pear tree) and dates from the reign of Emperor Wanli (1573–1619). The exhibition includes all types of furniture: cabinets, tables, armchairs, and more.

Ming furniture represents the highest standard of furniture making. The craft was handed down from father to son over centuries. Special tools and techniques were used to create perfect joints so there is no use of nails or glue and the natural lines of the wood are enhanced.

A Belgian national, Philippe was educated in the US and has spent a considerable part of his life abroad, across Asia, Europe and the US. Before he saw a Ming table in London twenty years ago, Philippe was un-

familiar with the period. He just recognized it as a Chinese piece and was stunned by its beauty. By accident, he met Grace Wu Bruce, a gallery owner and collection advisor who gave him an introduction to the legendary Ming furniture. "The more I learned, the more interested I became," said Philippe. He started to collect Ming furniture still available in Europe. Later he was introduced to Mr. Wang Shuxiang, who is known as the number one Ming furniture collector in Beijing. Wang was moved by Philippe's enthusiasm and gave his collection the name Lu Ming Shi, literally meaning living with Ming.

Even after twenty years of collecting, Philippe does not claim to be



A floor screen—one of De Backer's collection

Photos by Ma Xiaoyi

an expert on furniture, and would not judge a piece of furniture by its rareness or technological advancements. "A masterpiece is a combination of crafts, inspiration and passion. I would not evaluate a piece of furniture by its price, but the feeling it gives me. Some furniture can be feminine and some masculine. This message can't be measured, it is simply passion."

Many people might think that Philippe was keeping his furniture until there is a price boom, but he denies this. "My furniture is not for sale. I've earned much from believing in art. They are a part of my life. I do not store my collection in a warehouse, but live with them. This is what the name Lu Ming Shi stands for.

An anecdote might prove how passionate Philippe is for Ming furniture. "There was a time when I was having dinner with Prince Laurent of Belgium at my Ming table. Suddenly something spattered from his plate. At that second I just forgot all my manners, pulled my napkin down and wiped the stain at once!"

To show the influence of Ming furniture on modern European design in the twentieth century, Philippe also presented some examples of simple furniture from Vitra Design Museum in Germany to make a comparison. "Furniture expresses people's idea of life, the family structure and things beyond the nous. Ming furniture is classical and elegant, but not in a decorative way like baroque. You can still see that simplicity and function are the most important factors in its design."

Classical Chinese Furniture Lu Ming Shi Collection

Venue: Yong Shou Gong, Palace Museum, Beijing

Time: April 28-June 15, 2006

Arts festival raises cash for minority children



Mosuo Women perform a traditional dance



School kids take to the stage

By Tom Mackenzie

Beijing's first ever Cross Cultural Arts Festival at Ritan Park helped raise over 50,000 yuan (around US\$6,200) for disadvantaged minority children at the weekend.

The event attracted hundreds of children, parents and staff from five of the city's international schools. There were music and dance performances, wine and food stalls and art exhibitions.

Sarah Ma, director of school affairs at Eton International School, helped organize the festival.

"It was a great day and everyone had fun," she said. "People were very generous and we managed to raise quite a lot of money to help pay for art equipment for children of the Mosuo minority. This was the first Cross Cultural Festival so we're looking forward to the next."

A spokesman from the Lugu Lake Mosuo Cultural Development Association said, "The festival was a great opportunity to raise awareness about the Mosuo people. It was fantastic to see the international school community coming together for such a good cause."

The festival was organized by Eton International School, Beijing Chaoyang Charity Association, and Lugu Lake Mosuo Cultural Development Association.

A second festival for the same cause will be held in Chaoyang Park between 9am and 11.30pm on Monday (May 1).

Protecting the Great Wall

By Tom Mackenzie

Over a thousand walking enthusiasts from across the globe flocked to the Simatai section of the Great Wall on Saturday for the fifth Beijing International Great Wall Walking Convention.

Participants, from children to pensioners, came from as far a field as Australia, America and Estonia to take part in the annual event.

Iranian Great Wall enthusiast Ati Jarrahpour said, "I've climbed the Great Wall over 1,000 times in the last 14 years but Saturday was special. There were lots of people and it was a great event. The walk was about having fun but also about raising awareness about preserving the wall. I feel very strongly about protecting and conserving this treasure for future generations so it was great to take part."

The event, organized by the China Volkssport Association and the China Great Wall Society, included folk dance performances, garbage collecting and a photography competition.

A special tour of the wall was organized for children of migrant workers who would otherwise never have a chance to visit the famous landmark. Hundreds of people put pen to paper and signed a petition calling for the wall to be better protected.

Walking fan Barry Campbell, a teacher at the Agricultural University of China, said, "It was a very well orga-



Stepping out – over a thousand walkers gathered at the great wall on Saturday

nized event, there were people from several different countries and luckily for us the weather was good.

"I'm a little old and a little

overweight so I use any excuse to take exercise and this seemed the perfect opportunity – it was a very enjoyable day."

Ambassador gives culture lessons

By Han Manman

Culture lessons taught by ambassadors from 13 countries will be held every week until December at Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU). The lectures are not only open to students but to citizens interested in foreign cultures.

According to Zhong Meisu, vice president of BFSU, the ambassadors come from Spain, Portugal and Latin American countries. "These countries' masterpieces have been heavily influenced by Chinese literature; however, Chinese people are mainly familiar with Samba, Real Madrid and Diego Maradona," said Zhong

at the opening ceremony.

Zhong said learning their countries' history, politics and culture is important for students of Spanish and Portuguese.

Shortly after the ceremony, Ambassador Guillermo Ricardo Velez from the Colombia embassy gave the first lecture. He gave a detailed lesson to the audience including Colombian history, society, status, and Sino-Colombian relationships.

Chilean ambassador Pablo Cabrera will give a lecture on May 10, the Cuban ambassador Alberto Rodriguez Arufe on May 17, followed by the Venezuelan and Portuguese ambassadors.

Taxi drive fares issue



Fvida Nordin and Maria Jonefall



Kerosene W



Alexander Hoehn



Sandra Brooks

By Chu Meng

Beijing Municipal government held an audit Wednesday to discuss raising taxi fares. Officials, taxi company managers, taxi drivers, local citizens, and economists were in attendance. Will the fare increase have an impact? One of the groups affected, foreigners, was not present at the meeting.

Fvida Nordin and Maria Jonefall, university students from Sweden, in Beijing for the May Day holiday

We are only here for two days. We never take taxis here because we want to save money for other expenses. Instead, we take a subway or just walk. So maybe the price change will not make a difference to student travelers.

Kerosene W, a visa officer at the Finnish Embassy, has been working and living in the city for two years.

I got my own car here because of the job so I never take taxis. But I know the prices at present. I think it will be too expensive for people if it goes any higher.

Alexander Hoehn, from Germany, has worked as a Tax

Group Advisor in Siemens AG in the city for one and a half years

I take taxis about 80 percent of the time. The price change will definitely not change my daily life too much. And I dare say most expats have the same thoughts. I knew the soaring oil prices would have an effect. I think the government move is reasonable.

Sandra Brooks, a retired 63-year-old Australian woman, has lived in Beijing for one year

I only walk here. Wherever I go, I just walk and seldom take a taxi. The traffic in the city really drives me mad.

Bush Johnson, a 50-year-old American dentist, has been working in Beijing for more than five years

I take a taxi 99 percent of the time. I do not care about the taxi fares at all. Besides, I think it is reasonable considering the international background of the oil issue.

BJ'S LOVE & HATE

Happiness in Beijing

By David Drakeford

Are you happy in Beijing? Somebody asked me this recently, above a Tongli bar's din, prompting my only bad habit of taking a very simple question; expanding it, expounding on it, and encircling it prior to dissecting it and serving up its unrecognisable form on a bed of lettuce.

Of course there are certain key factors that contribute to our daily happiness, a decent cup of coffee perhaps, or a salesman understanding our Chinese without pulling out a calculator (see this normal price of 40? If I press 'minus' and then '2' you can visually appreciate the bargain!). There are the unexpectedly good days: is a calm proficient taxi driver on un-congested roads what the Chinese mean by 'Double Happiness'?

There are various expenditures that living incurs packaged together and price-tagged under the banner of 'lifestyle'. I think I have the right mobile phone and laptop until my mum's chortling at my *Hello Kitty* tea towel and *101 Dalmatians* bathroom tiles told me that my home decor was a tad passe. Living in Beijing, I really don't know how many months I am behind.

As a 'foreign expert' I'm sure I am appreciated at work and make a difference, if only with my blond hair. Social life? Well I know it's happening out there somewhere, which can be enough sometimes. Relationships? Short and sweet, age before beauty, first come first served and so on.

What about the 'within' from whence happiness comes? I do seem to have a warm glow recently, perhaps more from cheap Tsingtaos than one hour-a-week's voluntary work and equanimity (Buddhism or Taoism? I can't decide. Yoga and Indian food vs. Tai Chi and Tantra...?). The glass may be half full or half empty but at this stage in life there are plenty of refills yet to come. All in all I think that my presence here – As I do have a choice of almost any city in the world – confirms my satisfaction and yes, happiness.

"Oh..." said my unfortunate questioner. "I just wanted to know if you're happy in Beijing because my friend's letting out their spare room – in case you're coming back to England."



Delivering plants for the expat community in Shunyi.



Old people in Beijing prefer this outside hair service to expensive salons. A cozy stand beside the 3rd Ring Road.



Judging the new flowers in Botanical Garden in a beautiful Wednesday morning.



My friend with her flowers in Laitai Market.

A short breath between wind and sand

April is ruined by sand storms. After a long yellow and cold month, desperate people finally got a few short sunny days of real spring. It's a period for spending more time outside, enjoying the first warm days. This is the time when land work starts, preparing the soil for cultivation.



Enjoying the spring sun in the park. The buggy style has protected little Chinese folks for generations.

I am Chilean. I studied economics but have a big interest in photography. The time which is left after taking care of the kids and the painful study of the Chinese language, I dedicate to getting to know Beijing through my lens. My camera gives me the opportunity to get closer to the Chinese people.

— Paula Blanco



Sunhe market is the biggest kite market in Beijing, not far from my home.



A year of the dog day for a wedding at the Botanical Park.



Everywhere you go in Beijing, someone somewhere is playing tennis on a table.



Chinese is famous for its hard workers. But sometimes everyone needs a break.

A tartan story

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Scottish-Chinese tartan launched

At the annual Tartan's Day this month in Angus, Scotland, the Strathmore Woolen Company and the Scottish Tartan Authority designed and launched a Chinese tartan. Chinese Consul General Madame Guo Guifang, who said tartan was the key to the appeal Scotland holds for Chinese tourists, inspired the tartan.

The Scottish-Chinese tartan incorporates blue and white from the Saltire, the red and yellow featured in the Chinese flag and green represents peace. Bill Middleton, Angus provost, said, 'the new tartan symbolizes the harmony existing between Chinese people and Scottish people everywhere. As this tartan belongs to the Chinese as a nation, we hope to see it worn around the world.'

The Scottish officials and Chinese guests all showed a lot of interest in the tartan. Ties and kilts will soon be used for wedding suits and diplomatic events.

China's link with tartan goes back almost 3,000 years when an explorer in Xinjiang, West China, discovered the burial place of a group of ancient Caucasian travelers wearing perfectly preserved tartans.



Paul Smith



Paul Smith



Véronique Leroy



Vivienne Westwood

A brave fashion

How can we forget the rocky and soft-hearted William Wallace in Braveheart? How can we forget the blue thistle wrapped in the green and blue tartan cloth for the loyalty of love? Braveheart not only conquered the Oscars but also the fashion world.

Scottish designs boomed in Italy and France. Plaids and tartans put on by Scottish highland dancers became the most popular factors in winter and spring. Key holders of tartan designs can be seen on stands all over Paris. The dim ancient tartan has been revived by contemporary artists and made more commercially bright. The stunning red tartan prevailing around the world today is the result of this evolution.

Legendary fashion house Escada soon opened a store in Glasgow; a Dundonian, John Ray is to become the Creative Director of the fashion house Gucci; and international designers like Jean-Paul Gaultier and Tommy Hilfiger have drawn inspiration from tartans and kilts in their provocative designs. Hilfiger, incidentally, claims direct descent from Robert Burns. It's as if tartan has imprinted itself on the fashion-world's psyche. Supported, no doubt, by exhibitions such as 'Bravehearts - Men in Skirts' at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and the 'Scottish Tartan Exhibition' which has been running in the City of Prato, near Florence, since last December.

Tartan expresses a Scottish culture of colorfulness, brightness, briskness and regulation. Anything made of tartan will always be outstanding but never radical. Sir Paul Smith used this 'tartan factor' in his 2004 autumn and winter designs. The scarlet velvet scarf and woven coat brought warmth immediately, while the broad green tartan belt and skirt created a 'Lolita' temptation.

Jonathan Saunders from Glasgow, the most feted darling of the catwalk, gave a stunning show, 'Tartan on Acid', at the age of 24 in London in 2002. He was immediately commissioned by Alexander McQueen to create his bird-of-paradise prints for summer 2003. When asked what kind of women would wear his design, he replied, 'Brave women. Confident, and with a sense of humor.'



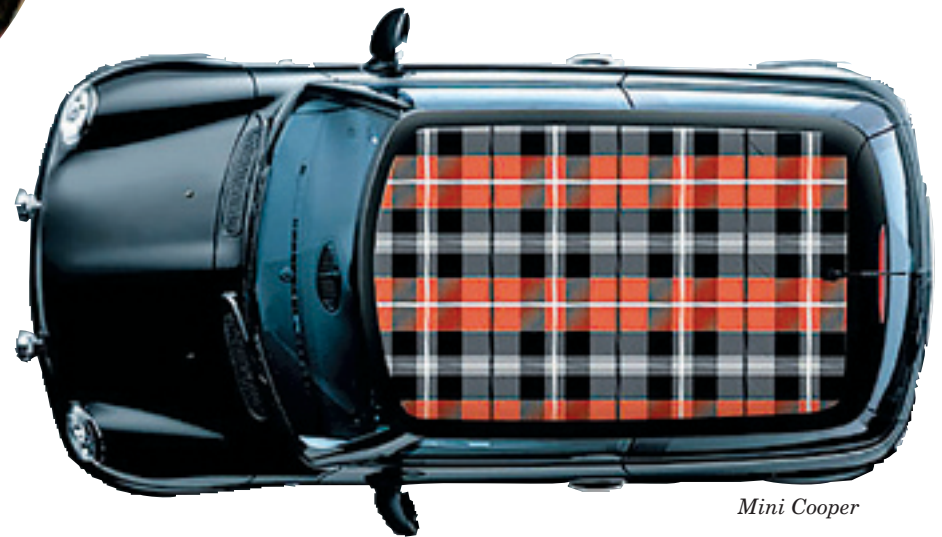
History: a political design

To talk about tartan, you have to mention Scottish clans. Thousands of years ago, the Celts started to use stripe and checked material to weave. The Scoti, who settled in Western Scotland from the 5th to 6th Century onward and eventually gave the whole country their name, are said to have used striped garments to signify rank.

Martin, a doctor on Skye around 1700, gives the first descriptions of Tartan which imply their significance as regional and the importance to weavers of ensuring that their cloth always has precise local patterns. Martin states that it is possible to tell from a man's plaid where he came from. There is no implication from any of this that specific families or Clans were their 'own' Tartans - the patterns appeared to be regional.

The battle of Culloden in 1746 saw the end of Jacobite claims to the throne. Many Highlanders, but by no means all, had backed the losing side of Prince Charles Edward Stuart. The new regiments were mainly associated with specific Clans, containing the men of that Clan and often led by the Chief or a senior member of his family. The first regiments used the 'Government Tartan', the Black Watch, but others quickly adopted distinctive new patterns. From this it appears that specific regimental Tartans became clan or family Tartans and not vice-versa.

The greatest boost to tartan came from Queen Victoria and her Consort, Prince Albert. They fell in love with Balmoral - the Royal residence on Deeside in Scotland - and with tartan and all things Highland. Prince Albert designed the now world famous Balmoral tartan and they bedecked room after room with it, further consolidating the Victorians' romanticized view of the 'noble' Highlander.



Mini Cooper

Tartan giant: Legend of Bannockburn tartan

The largest and most successful Scottish tartan manufactory was William Wilson and Son of Bannockburn, which started around 1770. The visit of King George IV to Edinburgh in 1822 was the milestone of the prosperity of this factory. Famous novelist Sir Walter Scott was in charge of affairs and the call went out to Highland chieftains to attend the huge levee in Edinburgh, dressed in all their tartan finery. There are many tales about chiefs searching out the oldest members of the clan to see if they could remember the pattern. One merchant wrote to Wilsons of Bannockburn pleading, 'Please send me a piece of Ross tartan, and if there isn't one, please send me a different pattern and call it Ross.'

Meanwhile, down in their lowland manufactory, Wilsons of Bannockburn were quick to see the business opportunities of tartan's great popularity and produced design after design for an ever-hungry public. Whilst their tartans were initially just identified by numbers, they gradually acquired the names of the major buyers or the areas where they sold best. Great Highland and Lowland families hitherto 'tartanless', gradually acquired the much sought after and greatly coveted social distinction of owning their very own tartan.



Top left green burgundy tie, by Polo Ralph Lauren; center red tie, right blue tie, both by Daks Bottom; left red gabardine tie, Burberry



Kenzo bag



Tartan bear



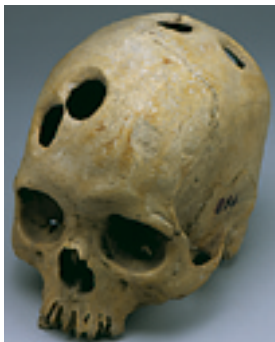
Daks wallet



Royal tunic



Portrait Bottle



Woman skull

Inca mysteries raise veil on foreign shores

The Treasures of the Inca and His Ancestors brings Peru's top precious

By Han Manman

Located in the west part of South America, Peru is synonymous with Inca culture. The Incas were a race of South American Indians who began their ascent to power in Peru about five hundred years before the arrival of the Spanish conquerors of the 16th Century. They called themselves the 'Children of the Sun'. In 1531, they were conquered by Spanish colonists. Today only the ruins of massive stone temples and palaces remain as reminders of the once high Inca culture.

The Treasures of the Inca and His Ancestors, the most significant cultural exhibition that has ever been presented by Peru in China, opened to the public last week and will run until September 13, in the National Museum.

Visitors will have a chance to see 248 original Pre-Hispanic pieces from the collections of the seven most important Peruvian museums. Although most of these 248 exhibits are used in funeral as sacrificial objects, the exhibition gives us an overall illustration of the ancient civilization of Peru and is testimony to the cultures created by the Incas and their ancestors.

The show contains pieces made of gold. The Incas and their ancestors considered gold a sacred metal that embodied the sun's creative energy and guaranteed survival, fertility and abundance. The show also contains pieces made of silver, ceramics and textiles, among other Peruvian treasures, some of which have never been shown before.

Huang Chen, from National Museum who is also in charge of coordinating this exhibition, said, "Among all the exhibits this time on show, four of them are of particular importance to four periods of Incan history."

Gold Tumi

Heralded by experts and critics as the most important piece in this exhibition is a ceremonial knife named Gold Tumi. This 1,500-year-old treasure is named as the most important cultural relic in Peru, and this is its first time it's been shown overseas. There were only two Gold Tumis in Peruvian history, but the other was stolen.

Shaped like a deity with wings, this statuette features a semicircular headdress. Made of gold with turquoise decoration on the eyes and earring, Tumi was used for ceremonial rites. The presence of wings symbolizes the deity's ability to fly to the world beyond.

Ceremonial objects of gold such as the Tumi were

also used by nobles to indicate authority and status in Lambayeque culture (4,000 thousand years ago.)

In the Lambayeque zone were established important pre-Columbian cultures, known for their artistic works in gold and silver), which preceded that of the Incas on the north coast of Peru.

Portrait Bottle

The other most eye-catching object is the Portrait Bottle. Bottles and jars in the form of human heads are perhaps the best known works of art made by the Moche potters (The Moche civilization thrived about 2,000 years ago. They are well known for their ceramics.) While many Andean cultures produced vessels in the form of human heads, the Moche potters' display of realism and personality is unique in the South Americas.

Portrait vessels depict aristocratic men and indicate high status. These kinds of portrait vessels were luxury goods in the Moche civilization and were probably distributed as tokens of royal favor by the individual portrayed.

Tunics

Tunics were widely used in Inca period. The one that this exhibition adopted is a royal tunic. This royal tunic was woven from camelid fiber-the wool of llamas and alpacas. The weavers who created this cloth used the very top class material and a variety of complicated and laborious techniques including tapestry weave, supplementary weft brocade.

All Inca men wore the same types of clothing. The basic item was a tunic. Throughout the Andean region, clothing was an indicator of rank and social position. Garments of commoners were plain and coarse, while the nobility wore cloth that was finely woven and brilliantly colored. In Paracas society (2,400 years ago. One of their main strengths was their advance in the knitting of cotton, wool and alpacas to create multicolor pieces that maintain their beauty), people believed using the wool of llamas and alpacas to wrap the dead man meant acceptance into the after life.

Skull

Different from the above three artifacts, a skull of a middle-age woman attracted many people's eyes because of the five holes in the head. Surprisingly, this woman's skull not only has five perforations but also no jaw. According to Peruvian experts, the characters show this woman endured five specific surgeries and jaw removal surgery. It seems she survived them all. This suggests that the Inca iatrical skill reached a high standard.



Gold Tumi



Lampe de cheminée vase

Walking in a crystal wonderland



Ming Toy perfume bottle



Ninurta E. Sottsass vase

By Chu Meng

It's a palace fit for a shimmering princess. Baccarat's showroom is nothing but an ode to all things crystal. From this week, China National Museum of Arts will have a distinct French flavor for the next few months, as it hosts major exhibitions featuring artists from the European country.

The renowned French luxury brand Baccarat, creator of crystal objects since 1764, brings 300 masterpieces to China from its heritage, some of which have never been shown outside France. There are three themes: Art and Light, Art and Design and Art and the French Way of Life. The exhibition runs till June 7. Breathtaking! Arriving visitors walk past sparkling crystal fireplaces and gigantic mirrors, and then go into a three-room gallery that pays homage to Baccarat's almost 200-year history of crystal making. Among the works on display are pieces designed for the 1878 Universal Exhibition, including an ornate enameled Turkish coffee set. There is a huge showcase full of vases, dishes and stemware commissioned by personages ranging from Emperor Mutsuhito of Japan to Jazz Age entertainer Josephine Baker.

In one room, giant candelabra ordered by Czar Nicholas II stands next to chairs designed for Indian maharajas. Another feature is a delicate bottle designed for the most classic perfume Christian Dior J'adore. Throughout the museum rooms, the atmosphere contrasts the sumptuous and the simple.



Verre véga rubis glass



Mei Wei in performance

Photo by Zhang Yanyan

From Peking Opera to rock 'n' roll Mei Lanfang's great-grandson is still in the family business...kind of

By Zhang Yanyan

The glaring light was shining on the stage in the hall on the second floor of the PKU Building. The audience was excited, singing to the music and cheering for Frozen Cross. Mei Wei, the drummer of the band, was sitting at the back of the stage, behind the drum, beating it rhythmically. It was a rock and roll music show in Beijing University.

After beating the drum for one piece of music from the *Phantom of Opera*, Mei Wei went to the front stage and began to sing, "Never be perplexed any more. Underneath the moon, I am still strong." Mei Wei was so fevered that he closed his eyes, held the microphone tightly, and shook his head in the middle of the stage.

The rock drummer

Mei, 22, graduated from the Chinese literature department of Beijing University in the summer of 2005. He has been the drummer of the rock band Frozen Cross for the past three years. Apart from his music career, Mei runs a small cultural exchange company with his friends. And beyond these two identities, Mei Wei is a professional Peking Opera actor, who grew up in a well-known Peking Opera family.

Mei Lanfang, known as the greatest of all the Peking Opera female impersonators, is Mei Wei's great-grandfather. For half a century, he was a household name in China. His ninth son, Mei Baojiu, who is Mei Wei's great-uncle, is now the most important Peking Opera artist of the 'Mei' style. Mei Wei is the fourth generation of this family.

Peking Opera upbringing

Mei Wei learned the skills of a *Dan* in Peking Opera performance for fourteen years. As a postgraduate in the China Opera College majoring in the Peking Opera theory now, his great-uncle Mei Baojiu and another famous artist Zhang Guanzheng were Mei Wei's tutors.

In 2004, Mei Wei gave a Peking Opera performance with his great uncle and other famous artists in Chang'an Opera Theater as a memorial to Mei Lanfang. Mei Wei sang a piece of Farewell to my Concubine to thousands, which won high praise from many old Peking Opera artists.

Tall, Mei has a round face and big eyes. He looks a lot like his great-grandfather, although he is much chubbier. "He is a humorous person, who always makes jokes," Chen Jingjing, Mei's classmate said. Sometimes, he wears a black T-shirt with Peking Opera faces on it.

"Rock and roll music fills me with passion, which is a different feeling to the Peking Opera," Mei Wei said.

Mei Wei is very famous in rock and roll circles in Beijing University. His band Frozen Cross is one of the most popular rock bands on campus. They play metal music and he writes most of their songs. "Mei Wei is a very talented drummer. Every time when he beats the drum, I feel very excited," said Zhou Zhenyu, the guitarist of Frozen Cross.

Rock influence

He began to listen to foreign rock music when he was in high school. Any time he had free from practicing Peking Opera, he learned to play guitar. After going to Peking University in 2001, Mei Wei made friends with some rock fans. One of his friends suggested he learn drums.

One year later in 2002 he formed Frozen Cross with three other students. He has been the drummer of the band since then. During his years in Peking University, Mei and his band have given many performances to the students on campus and have a lot of loyal fans.

"We will play metal music together till we are old," Mei Wei said with a smile. He and other band members still meet and play once a week since graduating.

Mei Wei is very busy now. "I am in charge of the public relations and finance of our company, which is a challenge for me," Mei Wei said. "I go to school and go to work by bus and subway, which I think is good for me to lose weight. I am very tired every day. However, I like my lifestyle, because it makes me full and happy," he said.



Verres Tsar Nicolas II glass



Bestseller booklists 4th week Apr.

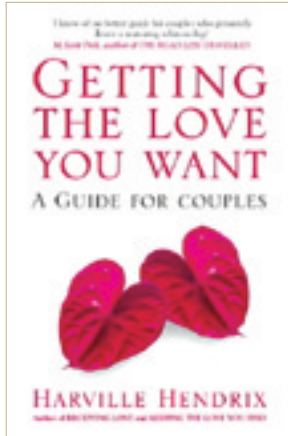
By Jia Ting

US – New York Times Bestsellers

1. *Two Little Girls In Blue*, by Mary Higgins Clark
2. *Dark Harbor*, by Stuart Woods (Stone Barrington, the New York cop turned lawyer, investigates the death of his cousin, a CIA agent.)
3. *Oakdale Confidential*, by Anonymous
4. *Dark Tort*, by Diane Mott Davidson
5. *Gone*, by Jonathan Kellerman

Amazon.com Bestsellers

1. *Getting the Love You Want: A Guide for Couples*, by Harville Hendrix



(When Harville Hendrix writes about relationships, he discusses them not just as an educator and a therapist, but as a man who has himself been through a failed marriage.)

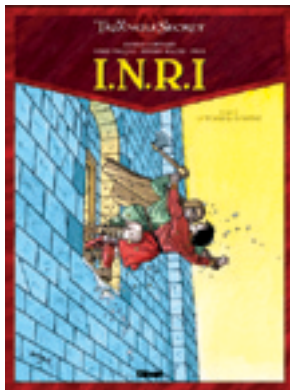
2. *Cesar's Way: The Natural, Everyday Guide to Understanding and Correcting Common Dog Problems*, by Cesar Millan, Melissa Jo Peltier
3. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*, by Steven D Levitt and Stephen J Dubner
4. *The World Is Flat [Updated and Expanded]: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*, by Thomas L Friedman
5. *Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog*, by John Grogan

UK – The Guardian Bestsellers

1. *Cross Bones*, by Kathy Reichs.
 2. *Labyrinth*, by Kate Mosse
 3. *One Shot*, by Lee Child
 4. *The Last Templar*, by Raymond Khoury
 5. *The Triumph of the Sun*, by Wilbur Smith
- (In the Sudan, decades of brutal misgovernment by the ruling Egyptian Khedive in Cairo precipitate a fierce and bloody rebellion.)

France – Fnac.com Bestsellers

1. *La Tragedie du President (The Tragedy of the President)*, by Franz-Olivier Giesbert
2. *I.N.R.I., Le Triangle Secret Saison 2- T3: Le Tombeau d'orient (I.N.R.I., The Secret Triangle 2nd Season - T3: The Oriental Tomb)*, by Falque, Wachs and Juillard



3. *J'etais Derriere Toi (I Was Behind You)*, by Nicolas Fargues
4. *Le Dessous des Cartes (The Lower Part of the Charts)*, by Jean-Christophe Victor, Frank Teart, Virginie Raison
5. *Le Clandestin (The Secret)*, by John Grisham

Germany – Amazon.de Best-sellers

1. *Sakrileg (The Da Vinci Code)*, by Dan Brown
2. *Der Dative ist dem Genitiv sein Tod (The Time of Dative Being Genitive Is Dead)*, by Bastian Sick
3. *Die Insel (The Island)*, by Frank Schatzing
4. *Der Schwarm (The Swarm)*, by Frank Schatzing
5. *Mission Arktis*, by James Rolins and Christine Struh

China – Joyo.com Bestsellers

1. *Brothers (2nd Part)*, by Yu Hua
2. *Deception Point*, by Dan Brown
3. *Lotus*, by Anne Baby
4. *Between Parent and Child*, by Dr. Haim G. Ginott
5. *Brothers (1st Part)*, by Yu Hua

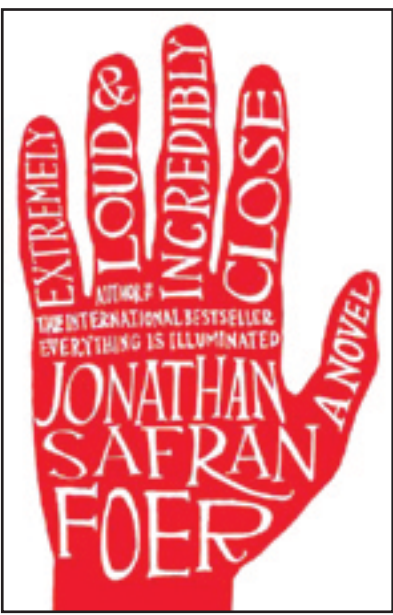
Loud and Clear

By David Drakeford

You may already have heard of Foer, whose debut novel, *Everything Is Illuminated*, was a bestseller and an acclaimed film. *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*, his second work, has also produced an outpouring of popular support -in part for a plot that seeks sense in the 911 tragedy but also for an undeniably original style that combines a fantastic and exaggerated sense of reality with a very real element of human emotion.

The main thread of the story is narrated by Oskar, a uniquely inquisitive nine year old, would-be inventor and Steven Hawking fan who at times seems impossibly clever. His sense of humor however, will be familiar to those who appreciate gifted and intelligent children and is a vital part of the book's success. Oskar's inventions include a skyscraper with moving parts that can open up to allow planes through and incredibly long ambulances that connect every building in a hospital.

Oskar returns home on September 11 to find a series of phone messages left by his father who is trapped in one of the twin towers. His inescapable death and a key found hidden high on a shelf prompt a search whose con-



clusion is, as much as one is given to such a senseless tragedy "a simple answer to an impossible question".

Oskar zig zags across New York with a substitute grandfather meeting many colorful characters along the way. A woman who never leaves the Empire State Building is typical; she tells us her beautifully sad story in just a few pages. His unjaded delight in the lives of other people is wholly inspiring and you may find yourself taking a sudden interest in your neighbours or the taxi driver you usually ignore.

The printing of the book with color, scribbles, overlapping text and two pages of numbers that Oskar's mute grandfather taps out as a desperate attempt at a phone call. You can use a mobile phone's predictive text to translate this passage which, after being enchanted by Oskar's childish curiosity and treasure hunts, might not seem like such a waste of time.

The book's reception has certainly been loud and its impression upon you may well touch incredibly close. Those who are repelled by any form of sentimentality or whimsy however, should look elsewhere.

What's on local shelves

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Timezone 8 Art Books

Yves Klein

By Olivier Berquren, Max Hollein and Ingrid Pfeiffer
239 pages, 438 yuan

Yves Klein was regarded as a visionary even by his contemporaries. This comprehensive retrospective includes over 100 works representing Klein's entire career from his first monochromes in orange, yellow, green, pink, black, and white, to his famous Klein blue monochromes, his sponge relief sculptures, his much-discussed Anthropometries, for which he used female models as live brushes, his monogold paintings, and his last experiments with fire and elements of nature.

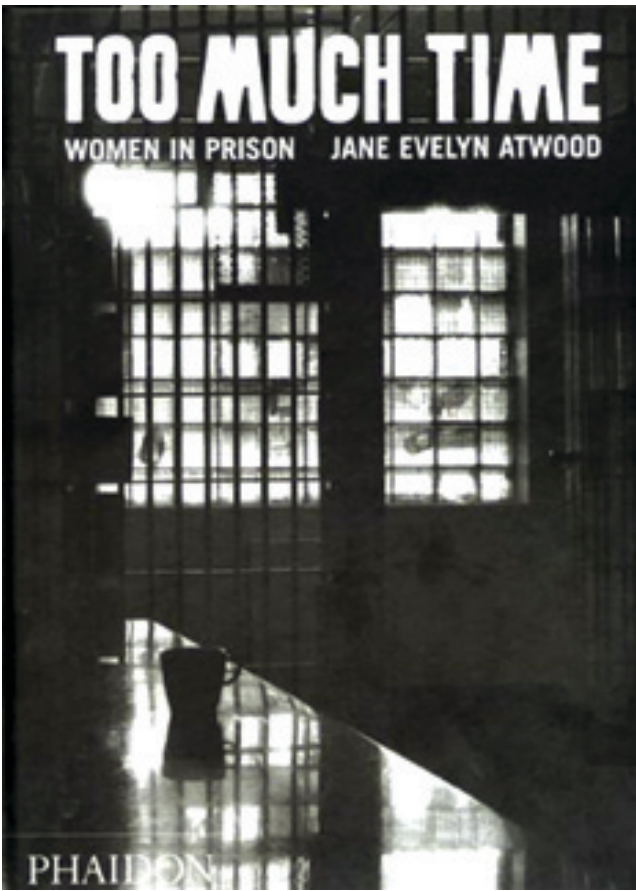
Too Much Time: Women in Prison

by Jane Evelyn Atwood
194 pages 450 yuan

A documentary survey of the experience of women in prison by the award-winning photojournalist Jane Evelyn Atwood. This book takes the reader into the lives of women in prison as they reflect on personal responsibility and social realities, guilt and reparation, change, loss and survival. It is in the power of prisoners' voices that the complex truth emerges.

Where: Jia 24-2 Meishuguan Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 64004427



CNPIEC Book Store

An Unlikely Governess

By Karen Ranney, 384 pages 100 yuan

Beatrice Sinclair has been hired as the new governess for the Duke of Brechin, a precocious nine-year-old boy with underdeveloped manners and an overdeveloped opinion of himself. Although certain she can eventually handle the child, she is not so sure about his cousin. Dark, moody and intriguing, thus captures the essence of good Gothic romance. Ms Ranney deftly explores the ambiguous and imperfect love between father and son, the horrific affects of warped love and the power of a new love.

Detachment Delta: Operation Cold Dawn

By Charles W. Sasser, 384 pages 107 yuan

Deep in the bowels of a land once sworn to America's destruction, preparations are being made to unleash a nightmare. A uranium enrichment facility inside the borders of Russia is ready to produce the ultimate terror weapons, portable nuclear devices aimed at obliterating a gathering of America's political leaders, sending the nation into chaos – and Delta Force is ready to move.

Where: 2nd floor of China National Publications Import & Export Corporation, 16 Gongti Donglu



Review

Snatches

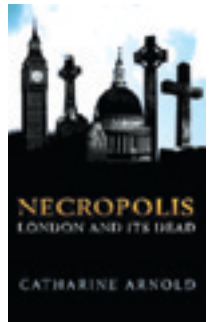


By Martin Rowson

Cape, 327 pages

Martin Rowson's new book is reminiscent of Smollett's glorious vulgarity, with echoes of Gillray, Swift, Sterne and Peacock. None the less, he is undoubtedly a modern original. *Snatches* is definitely a book for dipping into. Its continuity is tenously sustained through a few slightly amorphous characters. Like some of his drawings, Rowson's writing can be a trifle overworked but at its best is superbly funny. Most of his cast crowd the book's jacket. They include Hitler, Freud, Superman, Stalin and the Wolfman. Add to these a giant space-going squid, Simeon Stylites on his pillar, Candide conversing with Pol Pot, Osama bin Laden and various other terrorists and dictators in Las Vegas, 750 orangutans chained to 750 typewriters in the basement of the Cabaret Voltaire and you have some idea of the associative richness of this book and the wild, comic liberties it takes with time and space. (*Guardian*)

Necropolis: London and its Dead



By Catharine Arnold

Simon & Schuster, 320 pages

To its denizens, London seems to be one huge charnel house, a veritable lasagne of corpses, and at times in the city's history they have threatened to overwhelm the living with their demands for psychic and physical space. Overflowing cemeteries and the high price of real estate were not new issues, even in Pepys's day. Catharine Arnold explores this complex interplay between the two states in her grimly entertaining survey of death rituals, mourning and the practicalities of disposal. Her book abounds in deliciously uncanny detail. Much of Arnold's information is readily available elsewhere, though the book works as a handy one-stop-shop for all things morbid from the fate of Cromwell's skull to the Necropolis Railway, post-mortem photography and beyond. (*Independent*)

The Wah-Wah Diaries: The Making of a Film



By Richard E Grant

Picador, 261 pages

Since his unforgettable turn in the cult classic *Withnail and I*, Richard E Grant has appeared in about 30 films. As an actor, he is that excellent paradox, someone who can be relied upon to introduce an intriguing note of unreliability. He is not a typical actor. Unfortunately, although Grant acts like an angel, he often writes like a leviathan of luvviness. His camp effusions, his lavish insincerities, his inability to admit that certain public figures are absurd just because he has had dinner with them, all make *The Wah-Wah Diaries* rather hard work for those of us outside the magic circle. The book is Grant's record of an extremely personal project – the making of a film based upon his childhood in Swaziland, during the last gasp of colonialism. (*Times*)

By Wang Chun

Natural Flights of the Human Mind

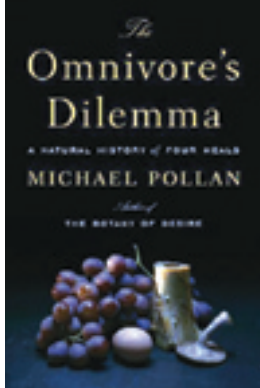


By Clare Morrall

Sceptre, 390 pages

Clare Morrall's new novel, *Natural Flights of the Human Mind*, has much in common with its predecessor *Astonishing Splashes of Color*, but everything in it is on a larger scale, and the mood is darker. Crippled by unresolved guilt and anger, its two central characters have isolated themselves from the world. Peter Straker, banished by his family to a disused lighthouse on the Devon coast, subsists on his own painful fantasies about the 78 people for whose deaths in a train crash he was responsible. Straker's wall of isolation is breached by Imogen Doody, a grumpy, middle-aged school caretaker who inherits a dilapidated cottage near the lighthouse. (*Age*)

The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals

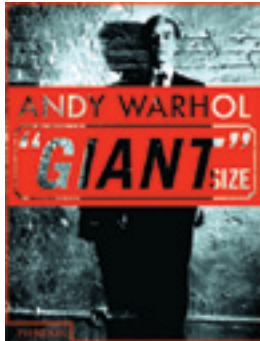


By Michael Pollan.

The Penguin Press, 450 pages

Life is confusing atop the food chain. For most animals, eating is a simple matter of biological imperative. But Homo sapiens, encumbered by a big brain and such inventions as agriculture and industry, faces a bewildering array of choices. Nowhere is this anxiety more acute, Michael Pollan says, than in the United States. Wealth, abundance and the lack of a steady, centuries-old food culture have conspired to make the Americans dysfunctional eaters, obsessed with getting thin while becoming ever more fat, lurching from one specious bit of dietary wisdom (margarine is better for you than butter) to another (carbs kill). Pollan diagnoses a 'national eating disorder,' and he aims to shed light on both its causes and some potential solutions. (*New York Times*)

Andy Warhol 'Giant' Size



Conceived by Phaidon editors

Phaidon, 624 pages

The 25th anniversary of Andy Warhol's death next year is creating buzz about the famously misunderstood artist, who uniquely grasped the function of celebrity and mass media in modern society and redefined the barrier between art and commerce. *Andy Warhol 'Giant' Size* is Warhol the Lot, a bulk buy, a gross amplitude of Warhol the Simple, Warhol the Smart and Warhol the Resourceful Blank capitalising on paradox and incorrigibility. As the artist himself said of the Great Wall of China, "When we got to the Great Wall it actually was really great. I'd been putting it down but then it was staggering." From birth certificate to gravestone, this blockbuster of a pictorial biography is sheer visual pageantry. (*Spectator*)



Boulder Bar

This 400 square meters pub is the largest boulder bar in Beijing. Mixing cocktails and climbing, this boulder bar is a place to hang out and meet other climbers.

This bar is a subsidiary of Beijing Extreme Experience Club, a new extreme sports club in Beijing that was set up by Wang Yongfeng, the captain of the China National Mountain Climbing Team. The club also runs China's largest boulder training area.

After hitting the rocks, climbers can enjoy themselves in the Tibetan-style boulder bar, at a Tibetan-style rest area, or enjoy food and drinks in one of the two big Mongolian tents brought from Inner Mongolia. There you can enjoy authentic Mongolian food and drink as well as singing and dancing in the evenings.

Where: Building 12 in Pingguo community at 32 Baiwanzi Road, Chaoyang District
Tel: 5876 0008

Passby Bar

Passby Bar, centered on the theme of travel, is a bar for people to find a fine mix of beer, travel tales and tongue wagging. It's not cheap but this historic hutong haunt is well worth investigating.

The bar operates from a courtyard house, which has polished beams, a low ceiling, a mezzanine floor (up the ladder) and a useful and growing library of books (with book exchange).

This bar holds plenty of attraction. One reason is the bookshelf filled with books. Another is the bar's casual, comfortable air. The bar owner, Xiaobiar, is also a part of the reason why it is popular with tourists. In 1998 Xiaobiar traveled from Lanzhou in Gansu Province to Lhasa in Tibet by bicycle via the Qinghai-Tibetan Highway. One year later, he opened the bar in an inconspicuous hutong in Beijing. In the following years, Xiaobiar cycled from Lhasa in Tibet to Kathmandu in Nepal via the China-Nepal Highway and cycled from Xijiang Province to Tibet.

There is also a menu with Chinese and western food, so you can settle down to a Beijing Hutong pizza, or believe it or not, a Gongbao Jiding pizza.

Where: 108 Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng District. Subway Andingmen.

Tel: 8403 8004



Polished beams, a low ceiling, a mezzanine floor and a useful and growing library of books



Sports City Cafe

Sports City Cafe includes Basketball Bar and Racetrack Bar and does not just focus on one sport.

The Racetrack Bar is modeled on a Formula 1 track, and there is a motorcycle and a bicycle suspended from the ceiling. The courtside restaurant provides live band entertainment, views of the dance floor and one-on-one basketball action. 50 television sets around the bar broadcast different sports channels from around the world.

Basketball Bar is centered on a giant basketball in a player's hand. In addition, there is also a cigar room and wine bar with a resident DJ. However, Sports City Cafe is only open to groups, not individuals (at least 50 people, buffet 138 per person.)

Where: 3/F, Gloria Plaza Hotel, 2 Jianguomen Wai Dajie.

Tel: 6515 8855

By Han Manman

A bar is not always just a place for drinking; it also can be a place for tour groups to have a short rest, and a place for sport lovers to watch matches and discuss sport events.

However, of the numerous bars in Beijing, there are few bars that provide space for sports lovers.

Beijing Today finds out for you.

Enjoying sports, not just alcohol



The Flying-man Club

The Flying-man bar is especially for people who love everything about soaring in the sky and exchanging ideas with other lovers of flying.

Enter the bar and you will see an assembled hang-glider hanging at the center of the bar. The bar is decorated with many gadgets and pictures about flying, surfing, and kite-surfing.

The bar is located on Yuan Dynasty Street and is owned by the Flying-man Club. The pilots always come together after a day of flying to tell each other about their experiences.

The bar organized lectures on flying and related events. Anyone, including non-members, is allowed to take part.

Where: Flying-man Club, No.5 East Yuan Dynasty Street, Yuandadu Park Chaoyang district.
Tel: 8461 6573



The Red Baron was notorious for ignoring 'No Parking' signs



Red Ball Football Club and Bar

Realizing that more and more people are interested in football, the Chinese government passed a new policy in March supporting the construction of small-sized football pitches in the city and urged the involvement of foreigners in their development. Three Hungarians, who have been living in Beijing for the past four years, are opening their facility this month.

The new Hungarian club is called Red Ball and offers two floodlit 5-a-side football pitches with the latest artificial turf surface just across the road from the Workers' Stadium.

The bar offers a reasonably priced selection of Chinese and imported beers (15-30 yuan) and a large selection of whiskeys, shooters and cocktails (15-30 yuan). The real draw here, however, is the chance to play some spirited games of football and engage in anything football related.

The Red Ball Bar is truly a unique establishment. Stretching out alongside the football pitches, it can seat 100 people who can choose to watch a live game or the matches projected onto two large screens. The bar itself lies under a giant four meters tall football goal. Of course, instead of a goalkeeper, a kind bartender serves draft beer and cocktails inside.

Where: Located opposite of Worker's Stadium North Gate, at the back of the parking lot on Gongti Beilu between the Bus Bar and Yugong Yishan. **Tel:** 8185 4705



W Sports and Music Restaurant and Bar

The bar is known locally as the 'W-bar'. Owned by Jan-Ove Waldner, the Swedish ping-pong star who is very famous in China, the bar is decorated with ping-pong paddles (even the menu is in the shape of a ping-pong paddle).

W Bar takes the form of a western-style sports bar with a traditional food menu. Two enormous television screens – intended for sports events – dominate the bar. Sports lovers can watch all major sporting events, from F1 and Moto GP to golf and football, from all over the globe. Sometimes the bar also airs events that are not broadcast on regular TV networks.

The bar also has a ping-pong table, table soccer, a table hockey game and a professional dartboard. The best part is that you can enjoy it all free of charge.

Where: 120 Sanlitun Nanlu, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 6595 8039

Alliya's Recipes

Gong bao chicken

Ingredients:
1kg chicken
250g peanuts
One chili pepper
Vinegar and sugar
Cooking wine

Cooking:
1. Wash the chicken, chop it into cubes, then add a teaspoon of salt and a tablespoon of cooking wine to marinate the chicken.

2. Heat the oil until it begins to smoke. Then pour the peanuts into the oil and deep-fry them until golden brown. When they are

ready, remove the peanuts from the oil.

3. Chop the chili pepper and add it to the hot oil. Leave it for 10 seconds then place the chicken into the oil and deep-fry until golden brown. Drain the oil.

4. Add five tablespoons of sugar and two tablespoons of vinegar to the wok and stir-fry for a further 30 seconds. Add a pinch of liquid cornflower and stir-fry for a further minute (liquid cornflower should be added to thicken the sauce)

Serve with rice and vegetables. Serves four people.



Jams

Brian Cox

His style can be described as a fusion of banging techno, sick electro and funky house. Groovy bass lines and filtered disco funk are mixed with punchy techno percussion to create a uniquely 'prime time' sound.

Where: Club Tango, south gate of Ditan Park, Dongcheng
When: 10 pm, April 28 **Admission:** 60 yuan **Tel:** 6428 2288

Jazz master Pierre Favre

One of the best jazzmen in the world, Swiss drummer Pierre Favre comes to Beijing with a quintet jazz band. The musicians, who come from Switzerland and Germany not only play original jazz instruments, but they also adds a traditional Chinese instrument – lute.

Where: Nameless Highland, Anhuili Yayuncun, Chaoyang
When: April 29 **Tel:** 6492 8932

Activities

May overnight hike

Participate in this overnight hike and have a wonderful time. Friday will see a beautiful valley and ridge hike in the tucked away flower covered mountains. Saturday is a Great Wall hike offering lots of exercise, and spectacular views.

Where: Huairou District, north of Beijing. **When:** April 23, leaving at 8 am from the Lido Hotel outside of Starbucks. **Cost:** 600 yuan for adults **Tel:** 13910025516 (Reservations essential)

Personal Classifieds

Jimmy, a very funny guy. I am sure that I will be your good Chinese teacher and learn more new things from me. Contact: mushuhaiaa@hotmail.com Tel: 8345 6137

Exhibitions



Dashanzi International Art Festival

Base on the theme of Beijing/Background, this yearly art feast combines much more items than before. Curators and artists are invited to think about issues specifically related to the city of Beijing and also about the other big metropolis' across the world. Visual arts are still the main course like paintings, installations, murals and photos. Other shows including architecture, film, performance, music and dance, created by artists from all over the world.

Where: Dashanzi Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiaolu, Chaoyang
When: April 29-May 21 **Tel:** 6438 2797
Website: www.diaf.org



Vivid Myths

Alecos Fassianos, one of the most popular artists of Greece's contemporary visual art scene will hold his retrospective exhibition. It includes 50 works that the artist created using materials like paper, cardboard, oil and bronze. Alongside these works, the show includes a special commemorative edition of stamps, as well as paintings and installations the artist designed for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

Where: Jin Tai Art Museum, Chaoyang Park **When:** May 11-May 21

Music



Cecilia Toussaint Beijing concert

To remember the female composer Consuelo Velazquez, Mexican singer Cecilia Toussaint will hold her first China concert in Beijing. She sings jazz songs using her charming voice that is a mix of Norah Jones and Diana Krall. The soloist was nominated for the Latin Grammy Awards for her song 'Como La Nada'.

Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiaolu, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm, May 8 **Admission:** 50-580 yuan **Tel:** 6466 4808

Mumiy Troll

This legendary Russian band will come to China with their hot songs. A generation of Russians was influenced by the fascinating voice of Ilia Lagutenko, the vocal of the band. Known as the 'Beatles of Russia', they have won lots of awards around the world.

Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiaolu, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm, May 5 **Admission:** 50-580 yuan **Tel:** 6466 4808

Services

First Wedding Fair

A wedding fair recently organized by Traders Hotel was more than enough to set brides-to-be's hearts pounding with excitement at the approach of their big day. Everything they and their fiancés could possibly need to make their wedding reception/breakfast a huge success was on view for their approval and - hopefully for the numerous exhibitors.

Where: Traders Hotel, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang
Cost: 1,688-2,588 yuan per table **Tel:** 6505 2277 ext 6211

Cheesecake lovers unite and dragon boat dumplings

Select from executive pastry chef Wells Wang's eight irresistible Cheesecakes and executive Chinese chef Lin Yi's delicious

array of dragon boat dumplings. Savour both traditional and contemporary flavours at the Garden Cafe.

Where: Presidential Plaza, 9 Fuchengmenwai Dajie, Xicheng
When: May **Cost:** 58 yuan per portion + 15 percent surcharge **Tel:** 5858 5588 ext. 8690/8620

Tulips and Aqua Park

Enjoy a fascinating holiday with 450,000 different kinds of blossoming tulips and visit the newly opened, the largest aqua park in Asia featuring comprehensive facilities is a good choice for you and your family.

Where: Tulip Garden, Jinzhanxiang, Chaoyang
When: until the mid of May **Cost:** 138 yuan per person for aqua park **Tel:** 8433 7800

Performances

West Side Story

As a classical love and violence story, *West Side Story* has been on stage over 40 years in three different theaters all over the world, even at the illustrious La Scala opera house in Milan, Italy, where the blue jeans and fire escapes onstage made a

fine contrast with the elegantly dressed audience in the gilded balconies. Now, the Broadway drama comes to China with original cast from the US show.

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng
When: 7:30 pm, May 7-11 **Admission:** 80-880



yuan **Tel:** 6835 4455, Tickets at 6417 7845

Meet in Beijing – Colorful Guizhou

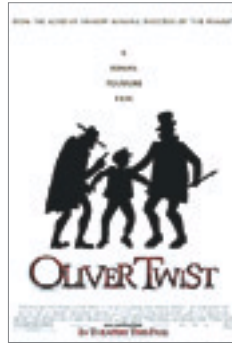
The annual great performances festival Meet in Beijing will have their opening program as this sing and dance performance – *Colorful Guizhou*. Performed by professional dancers and singers from Guizhou province, the program tries to show the original culture from the multiracial region.

Where: Tianqiao Theater, 30 Beiwailu, Xuanwu
When: 7:30 pm, April 28-29 **Admission:** 30-600 yuan **Tel:** 8315 6356, Tickets at: 6417 7845

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Movies



Oliver Twist

Directed by: Roman Polanski, starring Ben Kingsley, Jamie Foreman and Harry Eden. Abandoned at an early age, Oliver Twist is forced to live in a workhouse lorded over by Mr. Bumble, who cheats the boys of their meager rations. Oliver makes his escape to the streets of London, and is lured into a world of crime by the sinister Fagin. Oliver's rescue by the kindly Mr. Brownlow is only the beginning of a series of adventures that lead him to the promise of a better life.

Where: Cineplex across Beijing
When: From April 28 **Tickets** at 6417 7845

The Snake Boy

Directed by Miao Michelle. Twenty-four year old jazz singer Coco Zhao who lives in Shanghai, a metropolis that is home to many homosexuals. Having lived through many life-forming experiences, Coco is now enjoying a successful career and a full life, but he has yet to tell his traditional Chinese opera teacher mother in Hunan that he is gay. Chinese with English subtitles.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, An Jia Lou inside the Kent Center, Chaoyang
When: 8 pm, April 28-29 **Admission:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 6466 2288



Vivement Dimanche

(Confidentially Yours)

Directed by Francois Truffaut, starring Fanny Ardant, and Jean-Louis Trintignant. This is a story about an enterprising secretary in love with her boss but up against clearing him of murder. Julien Verce is a real estate dealer accused of killing his wife and her lover. He hides in his office while his secretary, Barbara, sets out to discover what really happened and why. French with Chinese subtitles.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Gongti Xilu, Guangcai International Mansion, Chaoyang
When: 6 pm, April 28-30 **Admission:** 20 yuan, 10 yuan for student **Tel:** 6553 2627



Non aver paura (Don't be afraid)

Directed by Angelo Longoni, starring Laura Morante and Alessio Boni. Laura and Franco have recently separated. Franco is paying alimony which helps to care for their son Luca. Laura takes a job as a phone sex operator in order to help make ends meet. Franco uses this as an opportunity to challenge for custody of Luca. Meanwhile, through her job Laura makes contact with a weirdo who seems intent on harming her son. Italian with English subtitles.

Where: Italian Embassy, 2 Dong'erjie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang
When: 7 pm, May 5 **Admission:** Free **Tel:** 6532 2187

“英名天下”

——量身定做取洋名！

您有一个**超绝塞114**的英文名字吗？
您的英文名字**符合您的性格**吗？
您的英文名字有**异性**吗？
您知道**流行**的英文名字的含义吗？
您知道那些时尚名字背后的**故事**吗？
为您**量身订做**取洋名，一切改变从“英名天下”开始！

男士：发送 **M** + 姓名的汉语拼音 到 **9638036** (移动用户)
女士：发送 **W** + 姓名的汉语拼音 到 **9668036** (联通用户)

如：喜欢时尚和潮流的辛小丽，发送“**xxinxinoli**”到9638036，就可得到适合她的时尚英文名字：含义为月神的Cynthia或Cindy，代表人物辛西娅·尼克松，主演了热门连续剧《欲望城市》(SEX And The City)而获得本屆艾美奖最佳女配角的女明星。Cindy是月神的昵称，代表人物超级名模辛蒂·克劳馥(Cindy Crawford)

“今日英语时尚”

——潮流英语随你“背”！

别因为英语流利就沾沾自喜哦！
欧美最时髦的英语怎么说？
最搞笑的俚语怎么讲？
发送 **XX** 到 **9638**，
不做洋文“老夫子”，
要当时尚英语人！
最酷的英文宝库芝麻开门啦，
同志们，跟我“尚”！

1891月

北京青年报 BEIJING TODAY

Debt collectors to be accredited

By Jiang Xubo

Government chiefs will launch a series of courses for debt collectors this June in a bid to tidy up the trade.

Most of the courses, which kick off from June 28 and last four days, will teach practical skills to debt collectors covering everything from calling, mailing and visiting debtors to filing lawsuits against debtors, including companies, enterprises and individuals.

Newly trained debt collectors will be awarded certificates on completion of the course.

"The courses will teach the trainees about the laws and regulations involved, useful skills and practices and how to master standard procedure," said Li Wenwei, executive director of the office for the training projects.

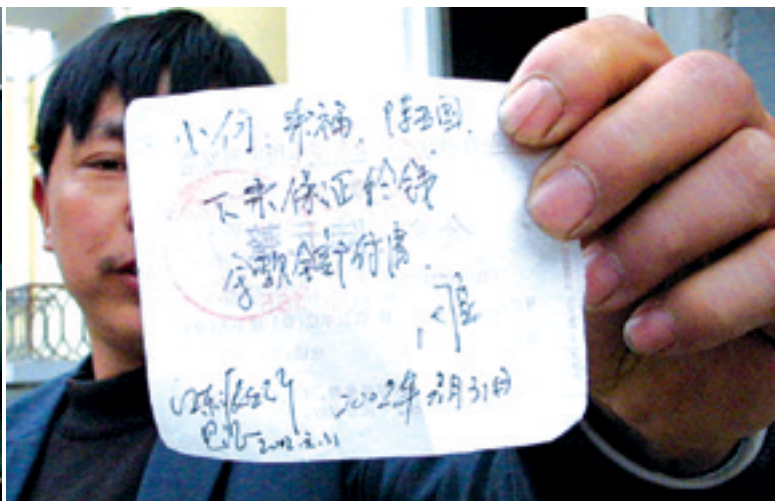
Around 20 experts in credit management, law and psychology will take part in training the future debt collectors.

Anyone involved in debt collecting in enterprises ranging



Debt is becoming a headache and constrain in the rapidly growing Chinese economy. Professional debt collectors are demanded to minimize the losses.

CFP Photos



from financial organizations and export companies to law firms can apply for the courses. Individuals can also apply.

New trainees can register for the courses, which cost around 2,400 yuan (about US\$300), from now until June 20. The center plans to recruit 60 to 80 people for the first set of courses. New

courses will recruit trainees every other month.

The courses for debt collectors are part of the training projects for credit management, held at a training center assigned by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security.

Courses for credit investigators, credit analysts, credit

evaluators and commerce investigators, the other four areas of credit management, are also being considered.

"Debt collectors can help creditors to get their money back, reducing financial risk caused by deals performed on credit," said Li.

Many lawsuits are filed

against the trade because of a lack of regulations and the courses aim to tackle that problem.

China acknowledged credit management as an occupation for the first time last March.

Companies involved only in debt collecting are not yet permitted yet by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

NDRC: China lacks 14 million jobs

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) warns the total number of job seekers will exceed 25 million this year, probably the highest number in history.

Only 11 million jobs will be created, which means 14 million could be unemployed.

The commission predicts that as long as the economy maintains the targeted growth, 8 million jobs can be created within the year. Another three million jobs will come out from the retirement.

Of the 25 million new job seekers, 60 percent are laborers from the countryside. The number of university graduates will reach 4.13 million, 750,000 more than last year.

(Xinhua)

Beijing's vocational education

By Ayi

Beijing's six vocational colleges will enroll 1,495 students this year, an increase of 375 from last year, according to the municipal education committee.

The six schools are: Beijing Information Technology College, Beijing Electronic Science & Technology Vocational College, Beijing Vocational College of Agriculture, Beijing Vocational & Technical Institute of Industry, Beijing Vocational College of Politics & Laws, Northern Beijing Vocational Education Institute. Majors cover gardening, automobile assembling and manufacturing, legal services, secretarial and electronics etc.

The colleges will recruit directly from junior high school graduates. Students will receive vocational education certificates and enter the labor market after a five-year course.

Chinese nurses to work in Britain

By Han Manman

From May 1, Chinese nurses will be able to apply to work in Britain under a new agreement signed by China's Ministry of Commerce and Britain's Department of Health.

Five companies, including three in Beijing and one in Shanghai, have been given the green light to set up the service. They will help nurses arrange work permits and visas.

British employers will advertise job vacancies on the websites of China's Ministry of Commerce and Britain's Department of Health.

Applicants require a Chinese nurse certificate, two years nursing experience and a minimum score of 6.5 IELTS if they want to apply.

Teachers' 'Big Apple'

New York has drawn up a generous plan to recruit 100 math, science and special education teachers for some of its toughest schools.

The city government plans to offer nearly US\$15,000 for housing subsidies to qualified candidates. In addition, the teachers will get up to US\$5,000 upfront to help cover relocation costs and down payments, then subsidies of US\$400 a month for two years.

In return, they are expected to commit to teaching for at least three years primarily in the city's most challenging and often crime-ridden areas, serving as role models and tutors to neighborhood children.

New York City has the country's largest school system with a record 1.1 million students and an annual budget of around \$14.5 billion. (AP)

Expats in BJ:

Digging for black gold

By Tom Mackenzie

Geologist Martin Bell has spent over two and half years helping to locate and drill oil off the coast of China. For much of the year, he lives and works with 80 other people on an oilrig 30km out to sea. And at a time when oil prices are hitting all-time highs, his job has become more crucial than ever.

Q: Where is the oilrig you are working on? Bohai or the East China Sea?

A: The rig I currently work on is in Bohai, about 30 minutes by helicopter off the coast of China.

Q: What are working relationships like between expatriates and Chinese on the oilrig?

A: Most of the time we work very well together. There are some customs that still remain difficult for me to adapt to, like spitting, but apart from that, all is good.

Q: What are the differences between your life on the rig and on land?

A: Offshore is where most of my work takes place. An American firm, Kerr McGee China, employs me to supervise the drilling of oil wells and the work is normally pretty full on. Back on shore life is very different. I get a nice clean bed and can shower when I want.

Q: What other opportunities are there for geologists in China?

A: There are lots of opportunities here. They are in very high demand at the moment, especially as a result of the current high price of oil, the short supplies and the rush by oil companies to find new sources. There are still lots



The oilrig where Martin works in Bohai Bay, east of Beijing and Tianjin.



Martin on the Great Wall

Photos provided by Martin Bell



Martin and his colleagues working on the oilrig

of untapped oil fields off China's coast.

Q: When you are not working what do you get up to?

A: I enjoy relaxing in Beijing, doing the usual DVD shopping and checking out new bars in the city. The nightlife has changed so much since I first moved here about three years ago - it's getting a lot better.

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: The future is looking pretty rosy at the moment, this job will last me a good few years yet. But I would like to leave the oil field before I get into my late 30s. I've thought about the possibility of setting up an oil field consultancy. I'm also a keen photographer and have even thought about swapping this for photojournalism but I still haven't decided.

Tips:

Self assessment: do you battle to blend in?

Read each of the following statements about your behavior at work, grading your response to each one according to the scale below. Then total up your cumulative score at the end:

1. Never
2. Rarely
3. Occasionally
4. Often
5. Frequently

- 1) I am a different character at home than I am at work;
- 2) I find I have increasingly less in common with my old friends;
- 3) I tend to follow workplace fashions and fads;
- 4) I can justify behavior I would have disapproved of in the past;
- 5) I find myself using the office jargon without realizing it;

- 6) I believe that to 'get on' I need to be seen to fit in;
- 7) I behave in ways that I think others (or my boss) want me to;
- 8) I feel embarrassed about some of my attitudes or hobbies and hide them from colleagues;
- 9) I always do 'the social thing' in the office even when I don't want to;
- 10) I find myself judging others for not fitting in;
- 11) There are some changes in myself since being here that I do not like;
- 12) I do things I don't agree with without challenging myself;
- 13) I find I agree with many of the attitudes and opinions at work;

How you rate:
50 or more

You are a slave to the Man. Your prospects may be buoyant but can you actually remember where your home is? There is a world outside work - you need to rediscover it, fast.

35 to 50

While not exactly a stranger to your loved ones, you exhibit strong chameleonic tendencies at work. Is your job taking over your life?

20 to 35

Your job is important to you, but not the be-all-and-end-all. Work, family and friends take equal billing in your life - a healthy balance. Keep it up.

20 or less

Work is just a means of paying your bills. You are not ambitious, nor are you ashamed of it. Your life begins the moment you leave the workplace.

(Guardian)

Seeking Jobs

Female, 25, an office lady with good English, looking for a part-time job as an English teacher (kindergarten or pre-school) on weekends. Email: robinfanus@163.com, Tel:13366050416

Vicent Zheng, a native Chinese university student, has one year experience as a Chinese tutor to foreigners, and is seeking as a Chinese language teacher. Email: Pupumini920@hotmail.com, or call: 6540 0615

I will be in Beijing during the months of July and August and I am willing to be an interpreter or writer for any position that suits your purpose. Douglas A. Bartake, Beauval, Saskatchewan, Canada, Email: dougman01@sasktel.net

Female, 24, a native university graduate with nearly two years of working experience as an office clerk, is seeking a part-time job as an English guide and accompany. Email: donotsaygoodbye1@hotmail.com Tel: 01063834603 connecting with Cindy

Female, Beijinger, MBA degree, 5 years work experience. If you want a good hand for business or English interpreter, contact Linda by email: tefclub@yahoo.com.cn, or call: 8695 2269, 1368337 9199

Brighten, male, 44, certified public accountant, experienced at accounting, taxation and financial management, good at English, is looking for a part-time job related to accountancy and audit. Contact: brightenmy@yahoo.com.cn, 13701291705

I am a PhD student in GUCAS (Institute Of MicroElectronics) looking for a part time job.

I have 5 years of teaching experience in Pakistan. Sheraz Anjum at 82847120, 13581806434

Need a Magical Birthday Clown? Magic shows, magic class, face painting, treasure hunts and much, much more! Special deals for charities, hospitals and schools. Email Mr. Magic at: parsons59@yahoo.com

Vacancies

Freetalking is a foreign language training center in Beijing. We are looking for three part-time English teachers, native English speakers from the US, UK, Canada or Australia.

Interested in working with us? Send your CV to: FreetalkingChina@yahoo.com

Work on simple web pages, database, art work or ability to use programs to create. Must have good English, suit full or part time, Send link to websites you have built & salary desired with CV to: info@bjrealeasy.com (work area is cbd).

Novotel Zhongguancun Beijing (under pre-opening) is looking for an HR Director/Manager, IT Director/Manager, interested candidates, please send CV and motivation to : gm@novotelbeijingz.com

(Send positions offered and wanted info to: ayi@ynet.com. Beijing Today does not take any responsibility for the accuracy or authenticity of the information published.)

Bilkent University: Great academic facilities and a strong MBA



Dr. Erhan Erkut

Our Study Abroad Salon of Turkish Universities starts with Bilkent University (BU), in Ankara. Although a private university, the school offers financial assistance, has the largest library in Turkey, a variety of colorful club activities and attractive future job chances.

Guest: Erhan Erkut, Dean, Faculty of Business Administration, Bilkent University.

General info of BU:

Q: What's the population of Turkey? – visitor

A: 72 million.

Q: Where is your school?

– GUOKUN

A: Bilkent is in Ankara. Ankara is a large city of four million. Bilkent is 12 km from the city center.

Q: Can you introduce BU in brief?

– Ayi

A: BU is a private, non-profit, research-intensive university. There are 9,000 undergraduates and 1,000 graduates and five vocational schools.

BU has 31 research institutes and 16 research centers. BU library is the largest university library in Turkey.

Q: How many faculties and teachers do you have?

– visitor

A: We have a teaching staff of 1,000 (920 academic personnel and 270 foreigners) in 9 faculties: Engineering, Science, Humanities, Economics and Administrative Sciences, Arts, Education, Law, Business, and Music. Faculty members come from 40 different countries.

Q: Must I study Turkish?

– xiaxia

A: You do not need any Turkish. Our classes are conducted in English. However, you can take Turkish language classes for credits if you like, as Turkish (or a similar language) is also spoken in a number of countries in the region.

Q: Have you any Chinese student now?

– 991009

A: We have two Chinese professors at BU (one in Industrial Engineering and one in Counting Science) and two Chinese graduate students (one in Physics and one in Chemistry).

Last year we admitted a Chinese student to our MBA but he chose to go to another university. We have a special interest in China.

Application and diploma:

Q: What is the best time to apply? What to prepare?

– lovelylin

A: Our new MBA program was rolled out on April 15, and you can apply via the web until June 15. You need to take GMAT and TOEFL, and send us your university transcript, along with three letters of recommendation. An excellent record helps you obtain a scholarship.

Master and MBA study:

Q: I have worked as an architectural engineer for about two years. What can I learn for master degree?



A bird eyeview of the Bilkent University campus



Splendid campus life

Photos provided by Bilkent University

– Bluerob

A: We have three engineering departments: industrial, electrical, and computer. Our MSc in Engineering is a two year degree. You do courses in the first year and a thesis in the second year.

Q: Can you tell us the academic advantages of your MBA?

– Ayi

A: As you know, MBA is an American program. Almost all of our faculty members are trained in North America and we

use a curriculum similar to those in the US. Hence you get an educational experience similar to that in the US, but at a fraction of the cost. Also, you are exposed to a country with a vibrant economy.

Tuitions and scholarships:

Q: How much tuition does it cost?

– monkeyking

A: Regular tuition is approximately US\$11,000 per year (depending on cur-

rency fluctuations) and it is a two-year degree program. The MBA program costs the same as the rest.

Q: Do you offer scholarship?

– visitor

A: We offer a significant number of full scholarships. About one quarter of BU students are on scholarships (i.e. they pay no tuition). For example, all our MSc. and PhD students are on scholarships.

Living and its expenses:

Q: How much does it cost to live there?

– liangqiao

A: It can be very cheap. However, the cost of living in major centers is higher. I estimate a student in BU needs around US\$500/month.

Q: We live in dormitory? Where to get information?

– lovelylin

A: We guarantee a dorm room to every international student. There are rooms with one, two, three and four students, depending on what you are willing to pay.

The cheapest dorm room is US\$400 per semester and the most luxurious ones are US\$2,000 per semester.

For more information along these lines, you can e-mail exchange@bilkent.edu.tr.

Events and activities:

Q: I found 70 student clubs, what activities else?

– lovelylin

A: Yes, student clubs are an important part of BU. Examples are bridge, chess, computer, motor sports, music, theater, outdoors, diving, cinema, photography. You can join any club depending on your interests.

Internship:

Q: Do you offer any internship? What kind of enterprises do you have connections?

– visitor

A: Our MBA program has an internship component. We are connected with many large enterprises in Turkey and we make an effort to place our students in the sector they are interested in.

I should also mention here that currently we have 25 exchange partners, mostly in Europe, and we intend to increase that number. Currently any MBA student who wishes to study in another university for a semester can do that.

(Edited by Xie Xiaolin)

Ask Ayi:

Q: I am a vocational school graduate. Vocational schools are always called colleges in China, and today many of them are labeling themselves 'universities'. I wonder whether I can apply for postgraduate programs in the UK.

– Yingying

A: Like many other countries around the world, the UK does not officially recognize Chinese academic certificates, but most British universities have their own practices. Therefore, telling them honestly and clearly about your educational background is very important.

Undergraduate programs

Not many Chinese students are reading undergraduate programs in the UK. The UK does not recognize and accept the national test results for universities in China. Those who want to read undergraduate programs in the UK have to take up pre-courses for one or two years before starting formal undergraduate programs. But if you are a university graduate you can start the undergraduate programs from the second or third year.

Postgraduate programs (courses)

If you have finished a four-year undergraduate program in China you have the possibility of being accepted by a British university for a postgraduate course. If you have finished your postgraduate education and received a master degree in China, you will have no problem continuing your postgraduate education in the UK.

If you are only a college graduate in China but have several years' work experience you can be accepted for a postgraduate program, but only in the academic fields related to your work experience.

Postgraduate programs (research)

You can apply for the research-based postgraduate programs in the UK, but only if you have finished three years postgraduate study in China. If you have also earned a master degree in China you can apply for the PhD programs.

US\$50,000 foreign exchange available

By Chen Shasha

Students who go abroad with no government support can now obtain a maximum of US\$50,000 in foreign exchange, according to the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE). The new policy will be implemented from May 1.

With the new policy, foreign exchange is available with no visa requirements. Also, students are allowed foreign exchange without the past exchange record being written off. Parents, instead of students themselves, under the new policy are permitted to utilize the exchange procedure as well.

Beijing's largest int'l school to open this fall

Sino-Canadian International School, Beijing's largest international school catering for children of foreigners working in China, is close to the end of construction work and will open this September.

Located in the third embassy zone north of Liangmahe in Chaoyang District, the project covers a total area of 35,800 square meters.

Sponsors of the school include the Canadian government, the education authority of New Brunswick of Canada and a China's education company, according to the Service Bureau for Foreign Officials under the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

There are more than 190 embassies and consulates in Beijing, in addition to 80-plus overseas press organs and offices of numerous international organizations.

(Xinhua)

Study in Canada (6):

How to get financial support

By Feng Nianhua

At the time of writing, I just got accepted to study a PhD program at UBC for the coming September; however, it doesn't make me feel much financial pressure as I am eligible for a PhD Tuition Fee Award for my first four years of doctoral study.

Getting financial support to help an international student meet the cost of his or her tuition and living expenses at the university is very important.

I had heard too many stories of Chinese students washing dishes in restaurants; however, for international students, working off campus is illegal in Canada. So, applying for scholarships

is a feasible way to support.

UBC offers International Partial Tuition Scholarships of up to US\$3,413 which is applied to assist with your tuition fees if you're registered full-time on a masters program (or if you are in fifth or later years of doctoral programs that assess tuition fees of US\$7,200 per year).

Teaching Assistantships (TA) or Research Assistantships (RA) are preferred awards for most graduate students, although you must work to get the money. I had been appointed as a TA in Asian Studies for Classical Chinese Language and some 300-level mandarin courses for two years. I worked 12 hours per



Nianhua on the UBC campus

Photo by Nianhua

week, consisting of examination invigilation, paper grading and two hours office work.

I hadn't got a formal RA position from any of my professors as RAs are rare in the humanities; however, I was offered a temporary job making discs for primary Chinese teaching material in my second year.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies offers approximately 300 University Graduate Fellowships (UGF) each year to meritorious students for full-time study and/or research leading to a graduate degree, on the basis of academic excellence. I had also applied for a UGF in my second year but failed; competition for UGF awards is intense!

Fortunately, I was nominated for the Andy and Julie Sun Scholarship and Gregory Tso Memorial Scholarship in Asian Studies and finally got them, owing to my excellent academic achievements.

Library assistants are sought-after positions on campus because the salary is always much

higher than that of a waiter in the university pub. I had applied for a position in the education library too, but I have not received any results.

I did the interview for the university pub, but I have not worked there for various reasons. The Canadian bosses care more about interviewee's local working experience, which is a big problem for international students. So becoming a volunteer for campus activities is an optional way to make up your deficiency in experience.

Keep your eyes open for the advertisement just posted online; if you're eligible don't hesitate to apply at once!

Looking for Legacies of the Three Kingdoms



Silent street in Longmen Town



A river in Longmen Town



Playing traditional dramas



Spring is coming to Longmen



Ancient stone house in Longmen

Tips:

1. Take No. 514 air-conditioned Bus at Longxiang Bridge in Yan'an Road to Fuyang from where you may go to Longmen; Take a long-distance bus at the southern bus service terminal or at the Hangzhou People's Hall to Tonglu; or take the bus at the Hangzhou western bus service terminal for a direct service to Longmen.
2. At Longmen, you may live in the local people's homes, 30 yuan for an air-conditioned room and 10 yuan for a standard room.
3. Take No.1 or No.8 bus from the Lanxi railway station to the bus terminal of the city where there are direct bus service lines to the Bagua village with a shift every 10 minutes. The fare is 3.5 yuan. There are two direct bus service lines to the village in Shanghai. Or take a bus at the Hangzhou southern bus terminal to Lanxi running every two hours. You get off at Bagua village.
4. Lodging: You may live in a Lanxi hotel which will cost from 10 to 40 yuan a night, or at a hotel in the village with a charge of about 50 yuan. Or you may live in the farmers' home for 15 yuan a night.
5. Tel: 0579-8600326 (for the Bagua village tour)



The pool in the center of the Bagua Village

Photos by Cai Lei

By Shida Zhu

Have you ever read or heard of the Three Kingdoms (AD 222-280)? One of them was the State of Wu in today's east China. If you go to Longmen town, half a hundred kilometers away from Hangzhou, you will find that it is overwhelmingly populated by the offspring of Sun Quan, the king. Over two square kilometers, there are 2,600 households with a population of 7,000. Well over 90 percent are named Sun. The Suns have lived in concentration in this town for 65 generations. The Sun family thrived during the reign of Emperor Jiaqing of the Ming Dynasty to the reign of Emperors Kangxi and Qianlong, just as a verse said, "Many a Sun ranks among the Confucian scholars and others wax wealthy."

The town was named Longmen, the dragon's gate, after a poem by Yan Ziling, a secluded poet of the Eastern Han Dynasty: "Green are mountains and beautiful is water here, better than the Dragon's Gate in Luliang." The Suns had lived in this town since the early Song Dynasty. It used to be the hub linking eastern and western Zhejiang. It is on the crossroads from central to northern Zhejiang and southern Jiangsu.

The town boasts a waterfall at a steep rocky cliff at its Longmen Mountain. It is particularly beautiful when the lush greenery is reflected in the white cascades of the waterfall. It is a waterfall with the biggest fall in the Hangzhou area.

Thanks to the housing development over the past thousand years by the Suns, the family has evolved a special housing design with the main hall in the center. It is divided into two major forms, one in the form of 回 and the other in the form of 井. Surrounding the main hall are residential rooms of the family members. Each compound is a family branch unit with the central main hall as the memorial hall for the ancestors. Each residential house is connected by covered corridors or zigzag cobbled pathways. A local saying muses: "If you visit your neighbors on a rainy day, you won't get your shoes wet."

Architecture

The town keeps an enviable cluster of architectures of the Ming and Qing dynasties. They cover pagodas, halls, gate towers, temples, ancestral memorial halls. The early Qing houses still retain their well-designed simple style brimming over with a profound message of history. The houses of the mid and late-Qing Dynasty pay great attention to decorative art with a flourish.

After the repeated scourges of war, now little more than 30 ancient buildings remain intact. They are redolent of the ups and downs of the Sun family. Most outstanding of all is the Yuqing Hall in the southwest of the town. Facing the Dragon Mountain, it was built by Sun Zhong, the 20th generation of Sun Quan, during the Song and Yuan dynasties. The compound has three layers of housing structures with two corridors and a courtyard in the front. The courtyard is flanked by two housing structures, the place where the villagers watch theatrical performances or have fun. The ancient pagoda that is best preserved is the Tongxing Pagoda, one of the two ancient pagodas in Fuyang city, on the eastern slope of the Shita Mountain in the west of the town, commanding a magnificent view of the Longmen Mountain in the opposite.

As the offspring of a king, locals are sensitive about events during the Three Kingdoms period. The wooden carvings at the immaculately designed Dongshan Hall tell numerous tales involving stratagems and plots and schemes of war. The generals on horseback and soldiers are so vividly carved in bold relief, you may think that they will come out of the artifacts and jump at you. As further evidence of the local people's nostalgia for history and the glory of the family, the villagers are particularly keen on performing a bamboo horse dance. The dance features battles during the Three Kingdoms period, retelling tales of how Zhuge Liang, the prime minister of the State of Shu, set fire to the armored boats of the State of Wei with tactics and how Sun Quan beat Liu Bei and Cao Cao in action. It is, anyway, brimming over with a forefather complex.

From Fuyang, go further south to arrive at Lanxi. It boasts of a village with a concentration of the offspring of Zhuge Liang, one of the heroes of the Three Kingdoms period.

Eight Trigrams

The Bagua (Eight Trigrams) village used to be called Gaolong. A descendent of the 26th generation of Zhuge Liang moved to the place during the mid-Yuan Dynasty. They worship Gui, the father of Zhuge Liang, as the original ancestor. The village now boasts of more than 5,000 people with more than half being direct descendents of the Zhuge family. It is the biggest concentration of the offspring of Zhuge Liang in China.

Its mystery lies in the formation of the village, as mysterious as the wise Shu prime minister himself. If you look at it from a high mountain, you see the villages hemmed in by eight hills that are mysteriously as connected and disconnected as in the Eight Trigrams that were used in divination in ancient times. They were eight combinations of three lines – all solid, all broken, or a combination of solid and broken lines, joined in pairs to form 64 hexagrams. The village itself was built in the design of the Eight Trigrams too. The center of the village is a lake, called the Bell Lake divided in half by yin, the water, and yang, the dry bed land, from which radiates eight lanes flanked with homes. The eight lanes carve out the village into eight blocks as in the Eight Trigrams to the letter. The lanes are mysteriously connected and disconnected, too.

The more than 200 houses of the Ming and Qing dynasties painted or carved with ancient folk tales or Eight Trigrams, through all those 600 years of wear and tear, still retain their beauty. There are 18 halls that are of cultural significance and two ancient gardens. It is now on the nation's first class protection list.

The village has a memorial hall in memory of the ancestral prime minister, which was built during the reign of Emperor Wanli of the Ming Dynasty. The hall that stands on a one meter high raised platform covers nearly 1,400 square meters in a structure with three courtyards and compounds. In the middle courtyard there stand four huge trees, a pine, a cypress, a Chinese parasol, and a tree of heaven. It is here that the villagers hold ceremonies to commemorate the birth of Zhuge Liang on April 14 on the lunar calendar. Similar large-scale memorial activities are held on August 28 and the day of winter solstice. They offer chances to glimpse the folk culture of the locality.



Stone sculptures in Bagua village



The hall in the Bagua village



Village woman and children



The offspring of Zhuge Liang